ABC NEWS - ELECTION NIGHT 1988 - (11-8-1988)

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From Tuesday, November 8th, 1988 ABC NEWS Live coverage of Election Night 1988 with Peter Jennings and David Brinkley

- Coverage runs from 6:30 P.M E.T - 12:54 A.M E.T

Republican: Vice President George H.W Bush - 426 Electoral Votes, Popular Vote: 48,886,597
Democrat: MA Governor Michael S. Dukakis - 111 Electoral Votes, Popular Vote: 41,809,074

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george bush and michael dukakis vote early today in their very different parts of the country their votes more certain than many others on this election day soon the polls and the predictions will no longer matter the people will have spoken from abc this is world news tonight with peter jennings good evening and finally finally in every nook and cranny of the land americans have gone forth to choose the 41st president and also to pass judgment on a third of the senate their congressman in many cases their governor and the state assembly not to mention a whole range of referendums put on the ballot by citizens everywhere we have been watching the exit polls all day long and as of now the presidential election is tighter than anticipated in more places than anticipated it may not stay that way but that's the way it is at this hour virtually all the polls have already closed in two states and abc news therefore now projects that in the state of indiana george bush has won the presidential contest there with its 12 electoral votes and he has also won in the state of kentucky with the nine electoral votes that he adds to his column there well throughout our election night coverage abc's lynn shure will be watching the results from our exit polls vashi is the one who will tell us from time to time what the raw numbers actually mean so let's go to her for a start lin for a start who is voting and for whom and on what basis so far well peter as you know we're going to be reporting the results of our polling of about 50 000 people nationwide but in those two states you just called we can tell you that the results show that george bush is winning on his background and on leadership in the state of kentucky more voters said that experience was the most important factor in choosing a candidate let's take a look at the numbers of those people who said experience was the most important factor 93 percent voted for bush only 7 percent for dukakis the second most important personality characteristic for bush was strong

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characteristic for bush was strong leadership of those who said that was an important factor 56 percent voted for bush 44 for dukakis but it has not been all smooth sailing for all republicans tonight and we will be looking at ticket splitting around the country right now let's take a look at indiana as peter pointed out that is a um that's a state that we have called for george bush but of those bush voters 28 percent deserted the republican and voted for the democrat evan bayh for governor we expect we will be seeing more of that and we'll be telling about it as it comes up in both indiana and kentucky finally the national economy a very important factor in voters choices and that's an early look peter much much more to come okay lynn thanks very much it has enormous number of numbers to balance throughout the evening vice president bush has spent a relatively quiet day in houston after having gone to the polls with mrs bush early this morning and that's where our abc's britt hume is tonight george bush performed the last obligatory ritual of the campaign

today filling out his ballot but when he paused to solemnly thank poll workers he caught a little grief from mrs bush i thank you all for what you do moving on there a lot of other people want to vote today outside bush greeted a friend then sized up the friend's companion who's that up there she looks like she's 18 get her in there bush's staff had the jitters this morning because an overnight poll taken by the campaign had shown a drop in bush's lead how did he feel nervous always every time i vote here i feel nervous speaking of nerves bush was asked in an interview with abc news how he had stayed calm in the crisis over his vice presidential selection that had seemed to threaten both the gop convention and his campaign i knew enough about it to know that a lot of the charges against my running mate have been so brutally unfair that that i knew everything would work out bush said he actually enjoyed defending dan quayle especially at a vfw convention right after new orleans i love that kind of thing i like it i

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i love that kind of thing i like it i don't care what the odds are and i think maybe the american people sense there's a certain maybe strength that comes with that but i liked going there bush will like coming here to this ballroom even better later tonight assuming the large lead that he built by mid-october holds up to protect it the campaign made some slightly frantic last-minute stops in key states stops the campaign is no doubt glad it made tonight peter great you mentioned the phrase jitters i'd actually heard that some people in the campaign woke up on a cold sweat this morning is that putting it too strongly well they had a bad overnight pole and it showed a sharp drop down to something like three points now i'm not sure what the composition of that pole was peter but there were some very nervous people in the bush camp this morning much relieved to hear that as the day wore on that he seemed to be doing okay okay thanks very much look forward to talking you many times throughout the evening saying it is wonderful to be home governor dukakis arrived back in boston today after a relentless 48-hour campaign push across the country but even after he voted he wasn't through campaigning here's sam donaldson michael dukakis voted this morning at a polish place in a housing project two blocks from his bookline home i voted for mike dukakis and lloyd benson proudly that's right and we're very proud of you no surprise there and this afternoon dukakis and his son john went power walking in the neighborhood nothing new there except consider this at 4 30 this morning dukakis was standing in the freezing cold at the airport in des moines it's great to be home in iowa still pitching hard as he flew back from california and an incredible 48 hours of non-stop campaigning an hour or so later he was doing the same thing in the rain at the airport in detroit hello michigan and finally back in boston bone weary though he was dukakis was still projecting the same public opinion poll defying optimism that has marked these closing days tonight we're not only going to surprise a few

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we're not only going to surprise a few people but we're going to be doing the celebrating would another week have helped well i don't know i this isn't the day to talk about what we would have liked to have or what might have been this is a day to be hopeful it's election day it's a great day in this in this country and i'm i am very hopeful still hopeful but still pitching at this hour dukakis is in a television studio here doing satellite interviews with local stations in such key states as ohio wisconsin missouri pennsylvania colorado and california some stations have turned him down out of fairness to bush but he'll now talk to anyone who'll have him peter sam is this uh election day enthusiasm the likes of which we've seen or is this a realistic appraisal that they can pull it out well peter i've got to tell you all along as the polls have shown him down i've looked for signs that they've given up that they know that the end is here and i haven't found them and i don't find him today i think dukakis and his people still think there's a chance he can win okay sam thanks very much and we'll talk to you throughout the evening in a moment we'll have the other races for the senate and the house and the governor's chairs as our election night coverage continues [Music] this is world well as we said the polls have now closed in indiana and we have a projection now in the race for the senate in indiana abc news is projecting that the republican incumbent richard luger is the winner there defeating the democratic challenger john f wicks that is no surprise at all richard luger returned to washington nationwide one-third of the senate 33 are up for grabs most observers believe that when all the votes are counted control of the senate is likely to remain with the democrats abc's jim wooten is going to monitor today's

senate races for us from senator mitchell up in maine to senator matsunaga in hawaii and 15 states democrats defending their seats today were all running ahead when voting began this morning in contrast in 12 states where republicans are seeking re-election two of them chick hecht of nevada and david carnes of nebraska

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david carnes of nebraska are thought to be in trouble carnes appointed just last year is running substantially behind bob carey a vietnam war hero and former governor in nevada hecht is being seriously challenged by democratic governor richard bryan in new jersey incumbent democrat frank lautenberg still favored in late polls despite a hard charge from republican pete dawkins in one of the year's nastiest races there are a half dozen open seats in today's voting three now held by republicans washington vermont and virginia and three by democrats wisconsin mississippi and florida virginia looks like a switch former democratic governor charles robb should replace retiring republican paul dribble but so does mississippi the other way republican trent lot for retiring democrat john stennis in florida republican connie mack may win retiring democrat lawton child seat by hitting hard at democrat buddy mckay with commercials like this hey buddy you're liberal and in the state of washington where republican dan evans is retiring it's a cliffhanger between republican slade gordon and democrat mike lowry even with a few surprises thrown into the mix the philosophical complexion of the senate probably isn't threatened by what's happening today because although there are a few unswerving liberals on one side of the aisle and a few true blue conservatives on the other the senate is becoming an increasingly centrist middle of the road little club and today's returns aren't likely to change that peter thank you jim speaking of no change all 435 seats in the house of representatives will be contested as always as abc's barry sarafin reports however when the election is over most of those seats will be filled with the same people the new house of representatives is expected to look a lot like the old one leaving the democrats with a comfortable majority there are only 27 races where no incumbents are running

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incumbents are running 408 house members are seeking re-election and nearly all of them are expected to win still some incumbents could be in trouble let's see how you all do it leading the list georgia republican pat swindle indicted for lying to a grand jury about considering a loan financed with laundered drug money swindle has labeled his democratic opponent former dukes of hazard star ben jones as a wife beater and alcoholic in rhode island democratic incumbent ferdinand st jermaine chairman of the house banking committee is shadowed by ethics questions regarding meals and entertainment provided by lobbyists for the savings and loan industry there are some notable retirees jack kemp who gave up his seat to run for president peter rodino who chaired the judiciary committee that voted to impeach richard nixon and edward boland who wrote the amendment cutting off military aid to the contra rebels in nicaragua but most house members are staying put and they have huge advantages as of mid-october incumbents have raised five times as much money as challengers and incumbents got ten times as much from political action committees there will be a push for campaign finance reform when the new congress convenes but there will be one big problem the only people who could change the system are those who now benefit from it peter that money will be one of the things to talk about later this evening roughly one quarter of the states are choosing governors today 12 of them and in indiana abc news now predicts that the democratic candidate evan bai son of the former senator birch bai will defeat the republican candidate john moores that is to succeed the retiring republican governor robert orr in a moment we'll get out the 88 vote as our election night broadcast continues [Music] and just before our major election broadcast begins this evening a few words on polls and how we intend to use them this evening

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to use them this evening are you currently registered as a democrat registered as a republican the polls we have conducted so far in the campaign have given us a couple of things a statistical photograph of how the electorate felt at the time and a base of information which helps us know what to expect today barring a

major surprise would you like to participate in the abc news today as people have been leaving those places where they've cast their vote many have been telling our exit pollsters much more about themselves why they voted in a particular way and what issues motivated them as we build a model from those exit polls which we've been doing all day the shape of victory or defeat may become clear it may not be enough however in order to project a winner in a state when the race is very close we need more information and so we go to another level we look at the political history of the state that tells us how people have voted in the past we tabulate the actual vote today from key precincts those precincts which reflect the voting history and the demographic makeup of a neighborhood or a district here's an example at the beginning of the broadcast we projected that bush and quail would win the state of indiana in the first place we know that indiana has voted republican in every presidential election except one since 1936 throughout the day the exit poll showed a consistent 10 to 15 point margin for bush incidentally had the margin been closer we would have then had to see if the key precincts were decisive and if they were not we would have had to wait until most of today's actual ballots were counted if a national election is particularly one-sided that will become evident fairly quickly and if that is the case there are more than enough electoral votes in the east and the midwest to decide who the next president is going to be if on the other hand the national race is close a candidate may not have put together enough

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may not have put together enough electoral votes in the east and the midwest and naturally the west will be decisive the west will also be as crucial to the model which we are building with our exit polls and key precincts as it is to the real election and there is this to remember even though we are sometimes able to decide who has won in a state on the basis of exit polls alone after all when was the last time that utah went for a democrat we do not project a race until the polls have closed in that particular state and the real vote has begun to be tabulated that's our report on world news tonight in just a couple of minutes i'll be joined by david brinkley for our full-scale election coverage of election night 88 hope you'll stay with us i'm peter jennings in new york from the abc news election night command center this is the 88 vote [Music] good evening i'm peter jennings along with my colleague david brinkley it is now 7 30 eastern standard time and the majority of polls have now closed in three more states so abc news is now in a position to make three more projections that here is a big one in the state of ohio we project that george bush has won the 23 electoral votes there this is a key midwestern state for any republican presidential candidate it has gone with the winner in 21 of the last 23 elections we also projected in north carolina george bush is the winner with the 13 electoral votes there very much helped by an improving economy in north carolina it's only gone to the democrats once in the last five elections we project that in west virginia michael dukakis is the winner of the six electoral votes there that's an important state for dukakis had he lost there the early signs are for the rest of the nation he would have been in some difficulty here's what the electoral vote overall looks like at this point in time 270 needed to win bush has 123 and michael dukakis has as of now six

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and michael dukakis has as of now six the polls have also closed in vermont as we pointed out not too long ago but that race in vermont is still too close to coal and some people did call to tell us that the polls were still open in indiana we project when the majority of whole polling places in the state have closed and of course the majority of polling places david in india have been closed for about 45 minutes 88 of it oh that was good thank you now i have some projections for the candidates for the united states senate beginning in west virginia where robert byrd democrat who has been the senate majority leader this will be his sex term he is retiring as majority leader because i think he wants more time for his country fiddle playing but he's said to be very good at it he's supposed to play a great version of red river valley now in ohio for the senate howard metzenbaum who's a democrat already in the senate has been re-elected he defeated george voinovich who's the mayor of cleveland it was a bitter expensive fight metzenbaum won it in north carolina the governor james martin a republican re-elected this is the second republican governor since the civil war and the first one ever to win a second term again in west virginia in the race for governor the winner is art is gaston caperton the democrat he defeated arch moore a republican who has been governor three times

that's the senate and governors up to this moment from abc news this is continuing coverage of the american electoral process this is the 88 vote now reporting from the abc news election night command center in new york peter jennings and david brinkley david i would argue that a couple of those senate races are worth talking about now particularly in ohio where george voinovich who was the mayor of cleveland very popular mayor of cleveland helped that city

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cleveland helped that city come back from default decided early on for reasons clear only to himself he was going to run a very mean and nasty campaign against the democrat incumbent howard metzenbaum when john glenn finally showed up with a testimonial domestic vomit seem to be all over but i wonder if that tells us anything this early in the evening about the quality of negative campaigning in 88 well if george bush wins and we don't know yet it will tell something about negative campaigning because his certainly works what he says in response to that is that the democrats started it at their convention in atlanta by kicking him around talking about his silver foot and his mouth and so on and so on i don't know if it turns out that all of the negative campaigners win who knows what will happen next time the other the other thing i think we're commenting on is in west virginia where senator byrd is going to step down as the senate majority leader if the democrats retain control of the senate as most people expect him to do he hasn't i gather been very popular in the job he's going to go to appropriations well he's worked very hard he's done favors that's how you get to be majority leader and how you keep the job once you get it doing favors and he's done that get a good parking space in a senate garage is worth almost anything in washington uh you can have your way if you control the parking he's going to the appropriations committee where he could do a good deal for west virginia because they pass out the money okay let's pass on abc's lyncher who's up on the second deck with the latest on what those exit polls are telling us lynn peter you talked about ohio we have some information about what happened there tonight uh george bush won the white vote he won the mail vote he split the women's vote with mike dukakis what george bush did not do was win all those so-called reagan democrats those are the democrats who defected to ronald reagan in 1884. let's take a look at the numbers um as of our information george bush won only 43 percent that's less than half of the reagan democrats mike dukakis winning 56. now the reason that's important is he didn't do as well but dukakis by rights should have won them all so that contributed to the bush victory now who are these democrats right now

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now who are these democrats right now we're going to call them bush democrats because when you look at these he's inherited them and he gets to call them his at this point 37 percent of them said abortion was an important issue to them 29 said the death penalty 21 said the pledge of allegiance and the bush democrats care more strongly about these issues than do all other democrats in ohio one other point we have picked up we talked about ticket splitting one quarter of george bush's voters voted for the democrat met him down for the senate so gentlemen another example of george bush following in ronald reagan's footsteps but perhaps with a slightly smaller footprint in ohio gentlemen okay lynn thanks so much i was up in ohio the other day on a sort of uh race we did around the country and the high-ends take great pride you were running for office certainly running for a while it is one of those linchpins there in the midwest uh ohio michigan illinois which either candidate has got to put together in terms of getting a midwest strategy which really gives them that elasticity to push on towards the west talking about campaigns let's go to boston for sam donaldson he is standing by with paul bratis the man who ran much of the dukakis campaign take it away sam peter paul is paul brones is the general chairman and good friend of the michael dukakis he must be exhausted after this last 48 hours of no sleep well i i think it's very exhilarating right now it's exciting with this this is what we've been working for for the last 20 months well i want to throw a wet blanket on it but we have just declared that george bush is likely to win ohio can you put together enough electoral votes without that key state yes we can we've looked at uh our numbers we're looking at the reports as they come in across the country and uh there are a number of states where we are very very competitive that we believe we can win if we win them we're going to have 270 electoral votes just a few minutes ago the governor was in a studio i understand

here doing satellite interviews with the local anchor people why did you decide to do that well i think look people are still voting in the midwest and in the west the message can still be delivered right up to the closing time

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up to the closing time we found that our trip across country the other night to cleveland and to st louis and then into detroit this morning was very helpful energizing the voters and getting the voters out what's happening sam is that the people are going into the voting booth today and are asking themselves a question particularly those who haven't made up their mind and they're saying who's on my side who's going to best represent me for the next four years now that's your theme that's the thing that the governor finally settled on for the last three weeks or so and apparently it's been effective why didn't you develop a theme like that in late august in early september when it might have really been something that did you some good well i think you've got to have more than a theme you have to establish the base you have to create the building blocks and those are the issues health insurance for 37 million americans that don't have health insurance college educational opportunity for high school students who can't go to college because they don't have the money that's what we talked about in september and now the theme is being tied into those building blocks the substantive issues and i think that's what's making the undecided voters the late deciders move to dukakis and benson tonight mr broadus it's peter jennings in new york we were talking about ohio a moment ago in cleveland the other day your local democratic people told me that you'd ignored them in cleveland jesse jackson said today that you tried to land without a crash landing in the last couple of days but had ignored your base in the country um you must have some sense of that from all your workers around the country well i don't think so i mean there's only so much you can do but we worked hard in ohio we have a very good organization on ohio they're uh they've been working very hard today to get out the vote and i don't i don't agree with that on the other hand you have to go with uh some of your strengths and and we've been concentrating on those uh states so where uh uh we are very very competitive where we can win them uh and i think that you're gonna see some very interesting results tonight mr brones in the last two or three days your campaign the governor's campaign has been impressive i would say almost superhuman going all day and half the night for all tonight

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day and half the night for all tonight if he had started his campaign energetically earlier you think this might not have been necessary well i think what happens at least my experience is that the voters begin to make up their mind after labor day and in fact start to focus very seriously in the last three weeks that's the that's when we picked up the the energy in this campaign that's when michael dukakis came fighting back and i think the timing has been very good we shall see mr brothers thanks very much for joining us thank you it is early in the evening we'll remind you just a few minutes ago we called west virginia for governor dukakis but we called ohio governor dukakis like george bush went to ohio nine times in the course of this campaign mr brother said what a key it was we have projected that ohio with its 23 electoral votes is going to go for george bush and no matter how you cut it that hurts we'll be back right after these messages [Music] [Applause] [Music] the 88 vote abc news election night coverage will continue in a moment i don't know how much uh there's going to be amusing tonight but we thought this was kind of amusing to begin with this is i suppose in the category of hedging your bets if someone can get a good early look at that that is the latest book on george bush the next president of the united states and here is on odoko way folks here is exactly the same book on michael dukakis the next president of the united states the publisher i forgotten whom it is but was absolutely determined but tomorrow morning we would all wake up and have the benefits of one or the

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up and have the benefits of one or the other let me see somewhere in a warehouse in new york there are a lot of books ready to go on sale and a lot of books ready to be trashed this is 12.95 i have never known political propaganda to come at any price usually it's free i'll give you two for six i'm already flooded with it

thank you you're welcome there are of course 33 senate races tonight a third of the senate is up and abc's jim wooten is the man who's going to watch the senate races for us this evening and he is in the magnificent russell rotunda am i right jim you're right there peter what i'm doing is standing about 60 feet across this rotunda from the the great senate caucus room which among other things was the scene of the investigation into the sinking of the titanic i don't think we're looking at anything quite that so dramatic in the senate tonight because of those 33 seats that are up for grabs 18 of them belong to democrats now 15 belong to republicans six of them however are open what we're looking at really so far tonight we've called five races two for republican incumbents and two for democratic incumbents and we've seen only one change in the open seat that's with chuck robb in virginia the power of the incumbency as barry noted for uh for congressmen in the house is very very potent it's very very difficult to get a guy out once he's in here and i expect there won't be a great many uh pieces of drama and upset tonight we could look however for one change that would be in nebraska where bob carey may beat the senator david carnes chick heck the senator in nevada is in a bit of trouble and let's keep an eye on montana all right why do we want to keep an eye on montana oh well sorry about it well you know john melcher there who is the the democrat is expected to win very big that may not be the case there are some signs out there that a fellow named conrad burns who's the republican who was miserably underfunded he's a very popular farm broadcaster out there is doing a

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farm broadcaster out there is doing a great deal better than anybody expected that would yes how could how could anyone vote against dr milcher he's a he is a commercial which involves two cows talking to each other he is a uh what do you call an animal doctor what's it called a veterinarian a veterinarian and nobody else could have made a commercial like that well at least that's not negative advertising i don't know if anybody's seen it the other republicans haven't i haven't haven't elected a senator in montana since what 1946 i think something like that jim um tell us a little bit more about what are the other race out in california i know it's early out there but there's a very interesting race in california for the senate there's another one of florida it is the most expensive race in the uh in the country uh peter 24 million dollars spent between senator pete wilson and the lieutenant governor of california uh leo mccarthy one thing that's very interesting about that race is that the seat that senator wilson now holds has never been given to an incumbent uh since 1952 i think it's six senators have held that seat in the last 29 years that doesn't bode well for senator wilson it's much too early to look at the returns out there although the early returns were showing senate some lieutenant governor mccarthy doing a lot better than people expected in florida you've got another uh very very close race between the congressman connie mack who is a conservative republican and between buddy mckay who's a democrat who says that he's in the mainstream and congressman mack is in the extreme congressman mack as you know is the grandson of the baseball immortal connie mack or cornelius mcgillicuddy okay jim thanks very much we'll come back to you we're talking about money george voinovich uh in ohio who lost to howard mets and bombed income and spent 7.1 million dollars down the tubes in that particular one and florida the reason we haven't been able to call that race in florida is too close yet even though the polls in florida closed uh some time ago standing by with us very briefly now and i can't even tell you where he is i'm

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i can't even tell you where he is i'm sorry to say he's in atlanta thank you very much is senator sam nunn the chairman of the senate armed services committee senator nunn thank you very much for joining us it has not looked even before tonight particularly good for democrats in the south what's the problem ah he just at that second david lost the ability to hear us if we can get him back we will come back try later because he's worth the trouble a very prominent member of the senate much admired chairman of the senate armed services committee was talked about as a possible candidate for president he refused to run and certainly talked about very much as a vice presidential candidate when uh governor dukakis got it out too have you ever talked about why he refused to run well you know this is only my own view not his and i wouldn't attribute it to anybody i think a number of democrats who might have run effective races didn't want to be in the white

house in the next four years because it is not going to be a happy time somebody has to do something about the deficit to do anything you're going to have to raise taxes or cut some programs which will irritate people it's not going to be a happy job he is one sam nunn senator bill bradley from new jersey with another and of course governor maria cuomo of new york several who uh has walked away from this race as well many of them as you said for the same reason let's go over to jeff greenfield jeff and and talk about the future of men who don't run like that do you think it hurts their careers generally well actually uh the united states has a version of groucho marx's old line remember groucho marx said he wouldn't want to be a member of any club that would have him as a member we revere politicians who don't run for president we think they're the cat's meow the minute they get into the arena we find terribly terribly damaging personal or ideological uh faults about them and so actually if a candidate for high national office wanted to care more about prestige than being president all he would do is constantly refuse to run and the whole country would be beckoning him into the arena okay uh jeff can i interrupt you for just a second because we only got a couple minutes left here and we'd like to spend it with uh

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and we'd like to spend it with uh senator nunn we can talk to you if you don't mind a little later senator you can now hear us what's the democratic problem in the south was my question well i think the problem uh here was and i haven't gotten the results yet so i haven't given up but was that george bush was able to define mike dukakis as a liberal first of all and second he was able to define what a liberal was until the last couple of weeks when dukakis really started defining his own philosophy and defining what a classic liberal was as opposed to the image that george bush was giving him so from your point of view what were the gut issues down there on which people voted well to be able to get to the issues facing our country here in the south i think you have to cross a couple of thresholds one is on national security patriotism wraps into that and the other is on crime and i think that was where vice president bush hit the caucus very hard those of us on the democratic team believed with a distorted kind of advertising campaign and dukakis started fighting back a little late on that senator if michael dukakis were to pull it up this evening would you be surprised well i'd be surprised if he pulled it out in the south but i believe around the country from what i hear there are a lot of close races and the targeted 18 to 20 states uh are coming in better for dukakis from what i hear than had been anticipated so uh this race is not over senator thank you very much for being patient with us sir we had a technical problem there senator sam nunn the chairman of the senate armed services committee who is not up for re-election this year though to remind you if you're not altogether familiar with the system 33 senate seats are being contested tonight and of course everybody in the house of representative and 12 governors when we come back a little later on we'll be talking to barry serafin who's covering the house and the governor's races for us in washington but just very quickly take a look at the popular board now three percent of the precincts reporting 58 of the vote for george bush and 42 now for michael dukakis we will be back we hope you'll stay with us it's going to be an exciting evening

00:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=2040s)

to be an exciting evening i'm peter jennings with david brinkley in new york [Music] from the abc news election night command center this is the 88 vote good evening i'm peter jennings along with my colleague david brinkley it is 8 p.m in the east and the polls have just closed in 16 more states and in the district of columbia so if you'll settle down we'll tell you what the projections are in all of those states let us go to one of the big ones keystone to the dukakis campaign texas abc news projects the 29 electoral votes in texas will go to george bush in new jersey abc projects that george bush is the winner there with 16 states a lot of late campaigning in new jersey we also project tennessee for george bush with its 11 electoral votes it's voted republican in seven of the last nine presidential elections in oklahoma we project that george bush is the winner republican votes in all but one in the last nine presidential elections in kansas we project the winner is george bush gone republican all but once in the last 12 elections and in mississippi we project that george bush is the winner mississippi is his strongest state and there somebody has also added kansas for me as a projection for george bush as well now let's move on to the state of mississippi and missouri missouri we also project for george bush that is incorrect at this point we do not project the state of missouri for george

bush we do project mississippi mississippi it is george bush's strongest state in the south and let us if we cannot go up to delaware which has backed the presidential winner in nine straight elections the longest current streak in the country we project delaware for george bush north dakota we also project for george bush at this moment with its three

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bush at this moment with its three electoral votes and in massachusetts governor dukakis's home state where he spent an enormous amount of money in the last few days on massachusetts radio to make sure that he was not embarrassed in his home state we project that it has gone for governor dukakis we also project that maryland is going to go for michael dukakis before the end of the evening that's uh an interesting state for many reasons as we will discover as the evening goes on but like west virginia which we projected earlier it should go indeed to the democrats the district of columbia has never gone for anything else but a democrat since it began voting for the president and we projected it goes for michael dukakis as well let us look at the electoral vote as of now george bush has 207 by our projection 270 needed to win and michael dukakis has 32 that does not mean it is all over by any means at this particular point in the evening david he needs 63 more now i have some projections for the united states senate beginning with one which will cause nobody to faint from surprise it's lloyd benson in texas re-elected and whether or not he wins the race for vice president he will hold on to his seat in the senate texans voted him in again in michigan donald reagan a donald regal the democrat defeated james dunn the republic in pennsylvania john hines of the heinz pickle and ketchup family very wealthy expected to win a third term easily and did in tennessee james sasser the democrat the incumbent holds on to the seat in massachusetts this is another one that will surprise absolutely nobody teddy kennedy edward kennedy defeated joseph malone elected for a fifth term i think it is in maryland paul sarbanes the incumbent democratic senator elected to a third term easily against

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elected to a third term easily against one of the two black candidates for the senate this year in missouri john danforth also a he's a republican he was expected to win a third term and did in mississippi trent lott the republican he replaced john stennis who was the oldest member of the senate 87 years old and the most senior senator trent he was a democrat trent lott a republican replaces him in maine george mitchell who is has eyes on the leadership of the u.s senate democrat re-elected in delaware william roth the republican who has became famous in the days of the kemp roth tax bill uh ran for re-election he's a republican he won north dakota clinton verdict he's been there forever he's 80 years old won his fifth term clinton verdict in for another term from abc news this is continuing coverage of the 88 vote with sam donaldson at the dukakis headquarters in boston britt hume at the busch headquarters in houston james wooten and barry sarafin on capitol hill lynn scherr and jeff greenfield in new york and now reporting from the abc news election night command center peter jennings and david wrinkly from our point of view that was quite a mouthful and uh perhaps from your point of view quite an earful as we made those uh projections it said it's five minutes after eight eastern standard time polls closed there in 16 more states in the addition of colombia let's just take a second and look at the overall map there because give you a chance to savor what the country is looking like at this point just very quickly down on those recent calls we projected texas for bush new jersey for bush tennessee for bush oklahoma for bush kansas for bush we did not project missouri for bush missouri has not been projected yet we

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missouri has not been projected yet we did project mississippi for bush delaware north dakota massachusetts his home state went for dukakis as did maryland and as did the district of columbia but that's what our map looks like at this moment and here is what the popular vote looks like at this moment it doesn't tell us an awful lot and it's hard to tell at this point just whether or not there's been an enormous turnout but with four percent of the precincts reporting and this is the national popular vote of course not the one that counts but gives us an idea of turnout and everything else before the end of the evening is over 58 going for

george bush and 42 going for michael dukakis and there are a number of states that are too close to call at this moment including a couple that close their polls very early at least seven o'clock eastern standard time vermont missouri as i just said is too close to call connecticut is too close to call illinois is too close to call key in the midwest there maine up in the northeast there with its four electoral votes george bush's summer home too close to call michigan another of the key ones in the midwest too close to call big republican battle within the republican party earlier in the year and pennsylvania is too close to call and if you're wondering somebody told me earlier david that those colors on that map were restful gray hope you feel good you feel rested as a result no i feel like i feel winded after having made all those last calls well i have a few calls here for governor and the main reason washington political leaders and others care about governors because they're local officers is that in 1991 after the next census in 1990 they will again carve up carve up the congressional districts in this country under the supervision of the governors so democratic governors tend to carve them up in a way to favor the democrats so starting in missouri governor betty hearns democrat who ran against john ashcroft the republican and ashcroft one governor of missouri john ashcroft in delaware michael castle republican reelected

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=2520s)

reelected and in north dakota george center a democrat peter let's go quickly down there's an awful lot going to happen in the next hour or so and we'll bring you up to date sort of in general what's going to happen very shortly but want to go to texas quickly where brit hume is standing by with senator phil graham on what senator graham thinks brett about texas at this moment got it brit senator uh you were the chairman here in texas for uh for george bush and the question i have for you is was it worth a try for michael dukakis to put a texas senator on the ticket to try to win this state i don't think it was i think that michael dukakis could not carry texas once people understood where he stood on the issues i don't think lloyd benson was ever able to help him in the south and i think that strategy collapsed well benson is enormously popular in this state it appears that he's on his way to being re-elected here tonight probably by a wide margin why is it that this people in the state of texas did not respond to him being on the ticket you think it'd be a source of some excitement he after all does live here while george bush only officially does was it really just a question of ideology well look brit we've had three vice presidents in texas we've had one president we sure know the difference all right thank you very much senator okay thank you senator graham makes a really interesting point i was down in texas recently they didn't care that george bush lived in texas officially or not he made some of his money there he had part of his career there they're looking to have a texan in the white house and of course they get two for one down there and in fact republicans themselves went out and urged texans to vote twice for texas republicans urge them to vote for lloyd benson for the senate and urge them to vote for george bush and if george bush ends up winning the white house texas will have the best of both worlds they also had enormous registration this year and i think probably the most novel voting experiment in the country where you could vote for three weeks i think it was called no excuse voting wasn't it yeah it's called something

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wasn't it yeah it's called something like that in any case that's what it is the texas republican party has made a record that must be the envy of every other one in the country in 20 years their registration has increased 1 000 it's gone from about a hundred thousand to over a million in 20 years and so it's become a republican state 345 000 votes i think in this particular registration campaign alone in a minute we're going to talk to uh senator lloyd benson who may be vice president-elect lloyd benson before the evening and a little later on we'll talk to bill bradley the democratic senator from new jersey who as someone pointed out wasn't interested in running this year but was a great public supporter of michael dukakis all that the senate races the governor's races house races all over the country and some fascinating propositions on all of the ballots when we come back abc news coverage of the 88 vote brought to you by kellogg's product 19 and chrysler motors [Music] this is the 88 vote and abc news coverage continues once again peter jennings and david brinkley in the great state of california people voting and we just had a call from the secretary of state in california the most legitimate call of the evening saying people are still voting out there there is still time to

vote in california and of course there is for the presidential race for that important and expensive senate race for a whole host of propositions as always on the california ballots so many propositions on the ballot that in one case they've got express lines where you can go through if you know what you're going to vote for but it may take you 15 minutes if you want to vote on all of the propositions which are presented to you in california it is also true of course arizona and colorado and nevada

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arizona and colorado and nevada where we'll explain in just a few minutes what is still there you can vote for at this particular time quarter after eight eastern standard time joining us in eastern standard time is senator bill bradley sorry david has a project yeah i do and bill bradley would be interested in it because it's in new jersey we project the winner to be frank lautenberg the democrat who is the incumbent he defeated pete dawkins football star army officer and solar frank frank lautenberg the projected winner of the senate in new jersey well let me ask you senator bradley what does it tell us about the state of campaigning if anything because it was about the meanest nastiest campaign anywhere in the country well it's great news for frank lautenbergen for new jersey and i think frank gottenberg won because he stood in his record of accomplishment for new jersey focused on that in the latter part of the campaign and pulled it out and what have you been watching television tonight and looking at some of the returns what's the whole country look like to you at the moment i think it's still very competitive for michael dukakis i think this could be a longer evening than any of us expect and why do you think it's going to be longer than we'd all originally expected well i think that a lot of the states he's very competitive he's only a few points behind i think it's a little too early to project we projected new jersey as you know uh new jersey went for a democrat in the senate why not the state well new jersey hasn't gone for a democrat at the presidential level in over a quarter century so this is uh unfortunate but it's uh not unpredictable so michael dukakis is the victim of precedent or the victim of his own campaign there i think it's the victim of precedent first and possibly uh the very negative and unfair ads about uh dumping sludge off the jersey shore might have hurt him too because this was the campaign where new jerseyites were concerned that the request from massachusetts to dump waste off your shore right that's correct what did you think of that i thought it was a little bit of a distorted charge negative campaigning that characterized the bush effort throughout but didn't the state of massachusetts actually make a request of new jersey to

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actually make a request of new jersey to dump its sludge off your ship the point is the epa is the active party here which means which means the regular administration have you had any second thoughts of course it's too late for this year any second thoughts about all those who urge you to run for president senator absolutely not i mean four years presenting new jersey united states senate and that's where i'll make my contribution that's your final word on the subject that's my final word all right see you later thank you thanks senator bradley senator bill bradley from new jersey just to give you a brief idea of where we are and what we are doing this evening first of all we have been projecting races in those states where the polls have closed in the great majority there are still polls open in many states around the country let me give you a small example in arizona and colorado where the local time is just after six o'clock in the evening you still can vote on a proposition which has been put on the ballot there to make english the official language in the state in nevada where it is a little after six two hours to cast your vote in a very interesting senate race there between the incumbent republican chick hecht who president reagan went out to nevada to help the other day and the democratic governor richard bryan running against chick hector in the senate in minnesota and wisconsin still time to vote in the senate race there between david durenberger who was on the iran country committee and hubert humphrey iii in minnesota and in colorado where it is a little after six there is still time to vote on a proposition as to whether a state law to prohibit state funding of abortions should be repealed so that is part of what is going on here tonight beneath that top level of the presidential campaign the senate races 33 of them all 435 seats in the house of course and 12 governors all of that happening here this

evening and senator bradley i think david put it fairly well this evening is turning out differently than conventional wisdom well it's turning out differently from what the polls suggested the conventional wisdom had nothing to base itself on except polls and they uh seemed to suggest that

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polls and they uh seemed to suggest that it was going to be a runaway for bush which uh at the moment at least it is not we are waiting to talk to senator lloyd benson who we project is uh going to at least be re-elected to his senate seat whatever happens to his vice presidential campaign and we've already projected that bush has won in the state of texas and key to this evening is your lbj story about texas which thought you will tell me it was the key some years ago it's not the key now lbj was sitting in the white house drinking a beer and scratching his stomach and telling us some of us about gathering names to be entered on the voting rolls and they went to the cemetery to copy some off the tombstones on one tombstone which has been there a long time the moss had grown over it and it was hard to read print and one of them said well let's skip this one because i can't read it and johnson said you will not skip it he has as much right to vote as anybody in the cemetery so i'm not saying the same thing is happening in texas today but it did happen then can i just repeat what we said about texas earlier too that it is very different today isn't it they have this no-fault voting when senator benson apparently went to castle no excuse voting he went to cassie's load and found that 120 000 people in his district had already cast their ballots over a three-week period people could vote i don't know that that happens anywhere else in the country i don't know either but what would a program like this do if we didn't uh have one night on which all the returns came what would we do well i hope people wouldn't feel as badly about this as they appear to felt about the campaign as a whole you know one of the reasons people have been voting of course is for someone who's been to vote against the other person and in our exit polls we ask people that question did you vote for a candidate or did you vote against one lyncher has some answers lynn yes peter you've been talking about negative campaigning we have information on negative voting according to our poll almost half the voters nationwide say they voted to stop another candidate let's look at the numbers as for those people who say they voted to stop another candidate 49 for bush 50 for dukakis that means they

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for bush 50 for dukakis that means they essentially split the negative vote and gentlemen that is not a particularly noble noble legacy for the next president okay lynn thanks very much just to give you a sense of uh of what now must be accomplished by michael dukakis the states that we at this moment reckon are too close to call which we could under normal circumstances call because the polls have closed are connecticut pennsylvania michigan and illinois now those polls close there at 8 p.m eastern time in those states plus missouri and connecticut we are really seeing the shape of the battle for this evening the battleground states if you will this evening for michael dukakis to be successful in this come from behind drive this evening he's going to have to win in pennsylvania michigan illinois missouri and connecticut particularly as he's done so very badly in the south which is no surprise to him or to the bush campaign and because we also project that he has lost in ohio we will be back with much more including senator benson after this work from your local stations and local voting [Music] from abc news this is continuing coverage of the 88 vote today america votes in the cities in the suburbs all across the nation votes being cast to pick a president 33 senators 12 governors to decide thousands of key local issues it is election day 1988 now reporting from the abc news election night command center peter jennings and david brinkley

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peter jennings and david brinkley voting for the 41st president of the united states to be specific it is now 8 30 eastern standard time and the polls have now closed in one more state and so abc news is now in a position to project that in the state of arkansas george bush is the winner of the six electoral votes there the deer season opened on saturday in arkansas bush asked all his supporters to cast absentee ballots before they went hunting and apparently they did george bush is the winner there let's look at the overall electoral vote

as of 8 30 eastern standard time that line there in the middle represents the 270 needed in order to win the white house as of this hour george bush has 213 by our projection and michael dukakis has 32. there are a number of states which are too close to call they are presently as of 8 o'clock eastern standard time half an hour ago pennsylvania michigan illinois maine connecticut and missouri and vermont where the polls closed about an hour and a half ago seven o'clock eastern time those by the way are the states in great vermont is still too close to call as well but we now give arkansas and standing by in texas waiting to talk to us is senator lloyd benson who we have projected to win the senate again regardless of what happens to him this evening in his vice presidential capacity uh senator good evening and thank you for joining us can you tell us at first why you think you've done so well for the senate but the state is going for george bush well it isn't decided yet on the state going for george bush and i've heard the projections uh but el paso the polls are still open out there and you have an unusual thing that is very difficult for a poster to tell about and that is that we have an extraordinary good turnout a big turnout and in 82 that confounded the pundits and the political pollsters and it the votes came in late and and texas had a sweep

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texas had a sweep for the democrats that could still happen so uh i haven't given up on texas yet do you seriously believe sir with all the evidence you've seen that the state is going to reverse itself at this point this evening based on our projection not a matter of reversing itself it's not over in texas you're making a projection and what i'm saying is when you have an extraordinary turnout i've found that the posters can't anticipate that and determine how they will go and as a result of that it's still possible that texas could go democratic i saw that happening in 82. david senator is one who's been listening to you for a long time you sound as if you've been running a political campaign and worn up your vocal cords is that right david you're right on that they're a little raspy now well you'll recover sir senator senator can i ask you this it does the the republicans mounted this very effective or seemingly effective campaign to get two for the price of one so to speak in texas you and george bush do you think they've been effective to some degree well i think it's been a pretty smart political move on their part and i suppose they picked up a few uh but overall i i doubt it's many and i think in in this situation mike dukakis has been able to get his message across particularly in the last three or four weeks appealing to working men and women of america middle income and this still can be where it pulls it off and i'm looking at states a number of big states pennsylvania could go either way we show that we've got about a two point lead illinois we show a pretty good lead new york we feel is ours michigan is a toss up really so i think it may be a long night yet we look at the west coast and states out there that we think are going to be ours california oregon washington and i i think that we'll be around for a while tonight senator benson can i just ask you one last question i don't by any means pretend to be an expert in your state but down there about a week or so ago i found a lot of people felt that lloyd benson had the right touch in texas but

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benson had the right touch in texas but that michael dukakis did not and as you answer this i'd like to show you the popular vote again in your state at least as it's being tallied now what do you think well they did a job on mike dukakis with the negative ads and they distorted his record and did so to a remarkable degree and and that was difficult to overcome i wasn't worked over like that they didn't do that type of thing to me character assassination i had a man running against me uh do have for the senate that tried to work me over but overall i've been pretty much unscathed well senator benson thank you very much indeed for joining us from texas tonight and as you say it may well indeed be a longer evening than some people had anticipated well they all hate to all hate bush's commercials don't they just hate them the one of the dukakis people said of the uh of the convicts marching into prison and out again he said it was unscrupulous disgraceful dishonest destructive and effective does that tell you something about the future of american politics well i can tell you about texas at the moment david all over texas there were these enormous billboards beside the highway saying mike dukakis is going to take your guns away now mike dukakis had no intention of doing that but what it took him an inordinately long time in texas to respond to that early campaign against him down there and i think that senator benson has made it clear that they really did work him over down there

well they did joining us now on the other side of the table is abc's george well we've been talking a little bit about the south off camera here with you how does it look to you at the moment do you think michael dukakis can pull it off it looks very familiar peter i'm looking at our scoreboard up there and every state of the old confederacy has turned red for george bush so far except louisiana which we've not called yet peter there are 11 states in the old confederacy they have between them today 138 electoral votes that's more than half the total needed to win the white house in five recent elections that is

01:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=3600s)

in five recent elections that is beginning in 68 going up through 88 not counting 76 when carter ran for the first time in five recent elections a total potential yield five times 11 of 55 states if louisiana goes against dukakis tonight the democratic record in these five elections will be two wins and 53 losses now if you start the campaign that much in the hole 138 electoral votes you like a baseball pitcher who says i can win but i have to throw every pitch within two inches of the outside corner i can't make a single mistake and no one can do that and we just talked to lloyd benson who is a marvelous candidate everyone agrees he gets very good reviews but there are going to be people tonight who say well you are never going to carry texas anyway you can't win in the south should have gone to ohio for john glenn george before we continue talking about the south let me uh say that we are now in a position to project the state of connecticut uh where george bush went to school among other things we projected for george bush it was uh won by ronald reagan it's an enormous majority in 1984 and it goes to george bush this year it's the state where he grew up and went to school his father was the u.s senator in connecticut and 1968 george will has been speaking about dates was the last time a democrat carried connecticut and that was hubert humphrey you talked about lloyd benson and the south there the bush campaign said that the caucus had made a fatal mistake by picking the caucus to win texas and the south we have the wonderful benefit of hindsight on election night what do you think well that's right i mean you can sympathize with what dukakis thought at the convention i have to look bold i can't be seen to be conceding the south so we went with benson still people will say the minute they did that the republicans began to concentrate like fury on the state of ohio and as long as they could carry ohio again that's just one of the things that dukakis absolutely had to take there were an enormous number of states giving up as i say to begin with 138 electoral votes down south everything became necessary for dukakis

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everything became necessary for dukakis almost nothing was indispensable to george bush great george thanks very much look forward to talking to you later in the evening david but not at a moment though okay then we'll go away and come back in just a couple of minutes i'm peter jennings in new york with david brinkley and the rest of our election staff hope you'll stay with us [Music] once again from the abc news election night command center in new york the 88 vote continues with peter jennings and david brinkley just want to clarify an impression that i may have inadvertently given about to 15 to 20 minutes ago i'm reminded david i said that defying conventional wisdom the presidential campaign is not a runaway this evening at the moment it really isn't either george bush has not let's look at the electoral board george bush has not yet put together um enough electoral votes to win the presidency but as george will has just pointed out and is very obvious from that map with the south going as it did george bush has 221 electoral votes at this moment and michael dukakis has 32 george bush is still some distance away and why i say that it is not a runaway is because there were a great many people throughout the country using the famous conventional wisdom and using the polls up until the last couple of days who believed that this was going to be something of a blowout for george bush it may turn out to be that way before the evening is over nonetheless at this moment there are some states which are simply too close to call and they are pennsylvania and michigan illinois and maine we've just projected connecticut for george bush missouri and vermont and lloyd benson may have said that things would change in texas based on that new registration we are presently projecting taxes for well you know it's interesting we just saw lloyd benson and have seen a good deal of him the democratic candidate for vice president but what about the republican dan quayle

01:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=3841s)

but what about the republican dan quayle where is he we haven't seen it so i have a report to tell you where he is and why you have not seen yet they have been sending him to these places napoleon ohio kankakee illinois appleton wisconsin van wort ohio and newnan georgia that's where they've been sending quail and in each of these places he's been talking to high school students not old enough to vote so well i could also tell you what he did well today he went back to his hometown dentist to get his teeth cleaned and he says he's done that before in election day and that has proved to uh to be good luck for him he then visited his 97 year old grandmother martha paulie in franklin indiana before flying back to washington dc where i hope we're going to have a chance to talk to him later this evening at the republican national headquarters in washington speaking of uh candidates a man who at one point would have liked very much to have been the presidential candidate now joins us senator al gore of tennessee um again i can't be absolutely certain where you are senator gore and i apologize i'm in nashville thank you very much for joining us from nashville and uh taking the time and tell us what's happening to the party in the south well here in nashville we're about to celebrate a tremendous landslide victory for jim sasser who's being re-elected to the united states senate we're still waiting on the returns in the presidential race and of course the projections here in tennessee are not that great from our standpoint but the word has not come in officially and we still have hope and we still have fight left in us and that's true of democrats and dukakis vincent partisans all over the country senator we have heard several democrats say that dukakis has had a problem with bush defining him rather than def he defining himself why was that allowed to happen you had any idea you wouldn't have done that would you well mike dukakis himself said that in

01:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=3961s)

well mike dukakis himself said that in retrospect he probably waited way too long after the convention to get out on the offensive and respond to some of the attacks that were forthcoming and that's true not only because it was an effective negative attack but also because of the factor you mentioned he was defined by those negative attacks and he himself has acknowledged that mistake i think very impressively in the last few weeks of the campaign you saw him heard him find his voice and come on very strong breathing fire into his campaign and closed the gap tremendously did you find him defining himself to the satisfaction of those of you in the south senator well i think what you saw with the naming of lloyd vincent as his running mate the naming of sam nunn as one of his co-chairs a very strong and responsible platform adopted in atlanta a determined effort by mike dukakis to run in the centrist traditions of the democratic party now that that probably was a lot more apparent after the nomination was locked up in the late spring but i think it brought a lot of people to his side it was largely responsible for the unprecedented unity that we've seen in this race on the part of the democratic officials all over the country okay senator thank you very much for joining us appreciate you taking the time to remind people that we have already projected that jim sasser is uh going uh to be returned as the democratic senator from the state of tennessee which of course is also senator george he's not up until 1990 it was a convenient time for him to run for president this year tennessee's produced some very interesting politicians senator gore howard baker among others president polk who else well it produced a lot of republicans during the civil war the east end of tennessee was and still is republican and it's sided with the north during the civil war so some remnants of that tradition still continue well speaking of republicans let's go to

01:08:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4080s)

well speaking of republicans let's go to uh washington where carol simpson is standing by at republican national headquarters there in what is advertised carol as a good mood am i right peter i can scarcely hear you with all of lionel hampton's music and uh very thousands of republican party faithful here we are in the midst of a big gop victory party uh everybody who is anybody and a republican and still in washington is here uh there was talk that president reagan might drop by but we don't think he will now dan quayle the vice presidential hopeful is upstairs in the eighth floor watching the returns with his family and close friends he's expected to come down here sometime after george bush makes an appearance in houston i must tell you

that as festive as this crowd is i have had sources tell me and confide to me that they are a little bit surprised that things were as tight as they have turned out to be they're surprised at some of the big states that are still uh in contention but they're still confident that this is going to be a bush quail victory party tonight they just thought they'd be celebrating it a little sooner than they are now okay carol thanks very much we'll be coming back to you throughout the evening the last time we went up to boston to dukakis headquarters they were telling us up there that there was a way which they could put together a model tonight which would enable dukakis to approach the 270 electoral votes he needed let's go there now to sam donaldson sam what do they think now well peter they still have a scenario that concedes to george bush all of those states on our map that are in red now the bush color for the purpose of the scenario which would still allow dukakis to win let me tell you what it looks like they say they're going to take massachusetts rhode island the district of columbia hawaii iowa west virginia new york washington and minnesota that's 94 electoral votes then they have 14 states that they consider tossups they're the ones that you and david have been talking about michigan pennsylvania maryland already now in the dukakis camp illinois missouri wisconsin montana nevada colorado california and others

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4200s)

nevada colorado california and others they must take all of those electoral votes 181 except for five now you can give them one state there one of the very small states and they could still squeak over the top but as you and george will and others have pointed out there is no margin for error here so they could still do it theoretically but the very next one of those toss-up states that we project for bush if those projections hold up will mean dukakis is doomed sam we're going to well don't go away for a second we're going to put our map up now to reflect what it looks like at the moment but as as we look at it talk again to us if you will about the mood of the dukakis campaign you've been with the campaign from the beginning it clearly has changed in the last couple of weeks what changed it i mean they really seem to be not in bad shape at all this evening well i don't know what what makes people get their act together i can't tell you except they finally got their act together it was at one of their low points peter remember the second debate in california everybody looked at that debate and said well dukakis blew his last best chance because he wasn't scrappy there he told me later that he was trying to be too nice remember everyone had advised him to well be more personable of dukakis everybody thinks you're a cold fish and so he didn't use a lot of his best lines that people are prepared for him but right after that for some reason they decided all right let's go now and see if we can win this election so they're still scrappy but tonight i gotta tell you if dukakis loses the uh poignancy of the postmortems and i think the bitterness and harshness in some senses of the recrimination are going to be very very strong because if you get blown out you say all right there's nothing i could have done i was blown away but if you lose by a squeaker in the electoral college then of course you're going to say if i'd only done this or if you'd only done that so let's wait okay thanks very much sam indeed we will wait because we'll make the point again we're not going to call a race in any state where the majority of the polls have not closed we're going to call based on our exit polling information the history of the state in some cases as we said earlier in the evening utah hasn't gone democrat since heavens knows when but we're not going to call

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4320s)

knows when but we're not going to call races in those states where the polls have not closed and in california for example where there is often a complaint that the television networks affect the voting i must tell you david after having visited california a couple times in the last couple of weeks they're almost as interested out there in the insurance the car insurance propositions on the ballot as they are in the presidential race at least that was my impression well the insurance automobile insurance certainly will cost the money the new president may do so and you know one of the dukakis people who speak or what sam has just said one of the dukakis people put it i thought rather nicely two nice too long what they think ducatis was stayed too long being a nice guy while bush was cutting him up we are going to go away for a while now but we'll be back in the next hour with all sorts of interesting projections in this race i must tell you there is at least a sort of democratic instinct at a variety of places out there tonight seven states have voted for george bush but have voted for a democratic senator or the governor indiana virginia ohio new jersey north dakota tennessee and

texas we'll have much much more in the next hour here's your local voting pattern [Music] from the abc news election night command center this is the 88 vote hello again i'm peter jennings along with david brinkley it is now nine o'clock eastern standard time and the polls have just closed in 11 more states and so abc news is now in a position to make some more projections on the presidential race in new york abc news projects that michael dukakis has won the 36 electoral votes there was some question not long ago in the campaign as to whether he would hold it but he did and those 36 electoral votes represent 13 of the total needed to win we project that to caucus wins in the state of minnesota the only state that walter

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4441s)

minnesota the only state that walter mondale carried in 1984 dukakis started strong there and stayed strong in rhode island normally a democratic state we projected michael dukakis gets the four electoral votes there and now we go back down to the south to louisiana where george bush was last a visitor during the republican convention he made a good impression obviously he gets the 10 electoral votes in louisiana in arizona as we begin to move west george bush we project is the winner in a state that hasn't voted for a democrat since harry truman in 1948. in nebraska we project that george bush is in the winner there dukakis got in trouble there when the governor the former governor was asked if he could recommend the caucus as a fellow candidate and he said basically no in wyoming we predict that george bush is the winner the home of old faithful troubled summer uh usually an easy state for republican candidates and proves to be again this evening let us now take a look at the electoral vote as it now stands george bush is getting a good deal closer 270 needed to win we project that he has 246 based on what he has won so far and michael dukakis has 82 by our projection and just before we move on to some of the other races of states which are presently we reckon too close to call are wisconsin colorado new mexico and south dakota that is as of this hour where the polls have just closed the other states still too close to call are pennsylvania michigan illinois maine missouri and vermont and that's the too close to call board all across the country in those places where the polls have now closed david peter i have some projections for the united states senate beginning with one which is probably a great surprise to most people it is that lowell wenker the republican senator from connecticut has been defeated by joseph lieberman the democrat he incidentally was was endorsed by another connecticut

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4560s)

was endorsed by another connecticut resident named william buckley joseph lieberman the winner in connecticut in new york this is not much of a surprise daniel patrick moynihan the democratic senator has been re-elected to a second term third term defeating robert macmillan that had trouble finding anyone to vote against him in wisconsin herbert cole the owner of a basketball team and quite wealthy came in to replace the retiring william proxmeyer who spent about a hundred dollars on a campaign he spent quite a lot trying to buy the election they said but whatever happened he won in minnesota david durenberger the republican defeated hubert humphrey third hubert humphrey iii said he knew he could not fill his father's shoes but he certainly could fill david durenberger's but he failed to take shoes during burger one in arizona dennis de concini democrat won again never much doubt about it he's very popular there defeated keith de green the republican in rhode island or the senate john chafee the republican re-elected in nebraska robert kerry the democrat the democrat won defeating david karns the incumbent republican in new mexico for the senate jeff bingaman the the incumbent democrat defeated bill valentine the republican from abc news this is continuing coverage of the 88 vote with sam donaldson at the dukakis headquarters in boston britt hume at the bush headquarters in houston james wooten and barry sarafin on capitol hill lynn scherr and jeff greenfield in new york and now reporting from the abc news election night command center peter jennings and david

01:18:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4682s)

i want to i want to unfumble the story david if i sit beside you for enough years i'll get him right robert kerry in nebraska the former governor uh decorated war hero from vietnam amputee very popular in the state is the one who was asked at a meeting of the rotary in omaha whether or not there was any other reason to vote for michael dukakis other than the fact that he was on the top of the ticket and he said no in public which did not help governor dukakis in the state of nebraska the senate is beginning to take a reasonably anticipated shape except for that loss of law wyker in connecticut the gop has now gained in mississippi with trent lost former congressman is now going to go to the senate for mississippi the democrats have gained in virginia where chuck robb has taken the seat from paul tribble who was a republican who retired some people said rather than run against chuck rob linden johnson's son-in-law and in connecticut whereas david has just said a moment ago lowell weiker probably i guess david the most liberal republican senator of all has gone down to defeat to the state attorney general so as of now the democrats are a net gain of 1. it was so liberal that some of the republicans wondered why he was in their party they didn't like it much well he was the one who at the uh at the convention argued for the inclusion of platforms and on aids for example which the republican party never did put in the platform uh despite his uh his best efforts paid for exactly among other things we are going to talk in just a moment to uh to the reverend jesse jackson but before we do that we want to look at the black vote as we know it so far across the country the cd there has been a lot of talk throughout this campaign as to whether or not blacks would really turn out for michael dukakis he did not campaign in the most visible way in many black communities across the country the person who tells us how blacks have voted and why is lynn sherlin peter mike dukakis is doing extremely well among black voters and you can see

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4800s)

well among black voters and you can see it particularly in the state of illinois when you take a look at the black vote in the state of illinois you see the dukakis is getting 95 percent to bush's 4 percent now keep looking at that number while i tell you that fritz mondale walter mondale in 1984 got 86 percent of the black voters so that is a really big change for mike dukakis uh it is also the case that dukakis is doing quite well with black voters in pennsylvania and michigan and that may be one of the reasons why those states are still too close to call there's obviously uh um a lot going on in those states gentlemen okay lynn thanks very much you want to go now to chicago where the reverend jesse jackson is standing by a man who has played an enormous role in this entire presidential year mr jackson thank you very much for joining us this evening yes sir um what does it look like to you that's the most obvious question well certainly at this point at the very top of the ticket it is not looking good but certainly uh mike dukakis has run a a gallant race with integrity and if it holds up this way george bush of course is to be respected and all of us will reach out for some a common ground agenda uh he did say uh in one dimension of his uh campaign of a kinda in general nation i hope people will get campaign behind us and look at that kind the gentler agenda as it relates to healthcare and they can and workers and and family farmers mr jackson campaign with a good campaign sorry i was just going to interrupt to say that in all the years i've listened to you i've never heard you uh lose your voice to this extent is uh is that the result of this last minute flurry of campaigning well not last minute i've i've campaigned extensively and exhausted them because i believe that the dukakis benson priorities was good for all americans as they have stood for economic rights for women and and prenatal care for everybody the kind of agenda the peers everybody's moving toward now i thought it was worth putting forth my best efforts mr jackson you were saying the other day that if dukakis loses and we don't know

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=4920s)

that if dukakis loses and we don't know that yet if dukakis loses the 1992 campaign would begin tomorrow wednesday the implication being i want to be sure if we have you quoted correctly implication being that the campaign beginning tomorrow would be yours is that right no that's not the right implication the fact is the the next quadrennial political season begins tomorrow what does it include it includes uh coalescing our leadership to protect our gains the party and to count up our losses it means putting forth a legislative agenda in january that will protect the common good of the american people and farmers to workers it means big city elections in 1989 and since it's kind of 1990 and reapportionment 1991 my point was people can't

just vote and go home the process of political involvement is an ongoing process it's much too early prima to endowment immature to be talking about 1992 politics on this night mr jackson i want to ask you one last question and you've been very diplomatic about mr dukakis but you said just the other day that the dukakis campaign had ignored its base and then tried to land without crash landing what did you mean well it seems to me that in these latter days we saw movement movement came it seemed to me for three basic reasons one mr dukakis left those network camera or 32nd blurbs begin to let america see his highest his best and truest self in the talk shows secondly basic democratic leaders governors congress people and senators stopped analyzed the ticket and started working for the ticket and thirdly began to focus more on urban america that's our base vote urban america is is multicultural and for that base it deserves three basic things attention sunshine and water and the more water he gave it the more it flourished and in those states right now where we're doing very well because those are

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5040s)

we're doing very well because those are states like michigan black pennsylvania he visited lately he made great impressions upon those communities mr jackson thank you very much for taking the time to join us this evening thank you reverend jesse jackson who earlier in this campaign david and the early in the primary caucus season some people thought was the only man really talking to the issue there are a great many who thought that he did talk issues and rather specifically the others generally have not they've had a lot of nice phrases that sounded good but when you analyze them didn't mean much i must confess i'm a little interested and i must this is a personal reaction surprise to what lynn is saying about black turnout for dukakis willie brown who's the most senior black official in the state of california said that the only person who'd campaigned actively for the black vote was jesse jackson and the caucus and all the others had gone for it and that was stupid and he said that there wasn't the black enthusiasm there for governor dukakis and lynn is telling us that in the exit polls it appears to be there bearing in mind of course that the black vote like the hispanic vote like any powerful minority vote is only really effective when an election is close and let us take a look at how close it appears to be based on our projection with the majority of the polls either having having closed in all of the states in which we have projected a race it may be as some people have pointed out to us on the telephone that in a state one or two or even a handful a small handful of precincts have remained open but we are not calling races in any state where the majority of the polls have not closed and take a quick look up here at the popular vote here with 16 of the precincts reporting in from around the country we estimate now that george bush will have 56 percent and michael dukakis will have 44 as of now we will be back with more right after these messages abc news coverage of the 88 vote brought to you by plymouth and merrill lynch [Music]

01:26:05 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5165s)

[Music] this is the 88 vote and abc news election night coverage continues once again peter jennings and david brinkley good evening again it is quarter after nine eastern standard time and we now make a projection in a state which it took us some time to come to a conclusion about abc news now projects that in maine george bush is the winner that state was too close to call for some time that's where george bush's summer home is up at kennebunkport the question is if he wins the presidency tonight will it become the summer white house the slogan up there has been since the mid-1860s david as maine go so goes the nation i don't know why quite frankly it took so long to resolve things up there in may tonight the rest of new england settled fairly quickly i don't know i thought it would go for gopher bush very quickly because he he doesn't live there he says he says he lives in texas though there's some debate about that but he has a big house in uh maine kennebunkport where on holidays and other times in the summer the whole family gathers and they have a good time there um it means something to me and i think to have a summer waiter speaking all right it didn't mean a whole lot because it took a lot of months it took a long time to get around the voting took a while to get there speaking of republicans you may have noticed if you've been with us for some time that we have been talking to quite a number of democrats uh but we haven't yet talked to any republicans it has not been for lack of trying republicans at this point uh two hours and fifteen minutes after our coverage began have been reluctant to come out and talk i don't know if that's the word that's gone out

through the republican ranks this evening uh or whether we're an exception i can tell you that we talked to dan quayle's spokesman david prosper a while ago and he said there will be no interviews with senator quail this evening there will be no photo opportunity with senator quail he's not even going to be seen watching the election returns because in senator quayle's words this is george bush's night well there's a great deal happening tonight of course the senate a third of the senate is up all of the

01:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5280s)

third of the senate is up all of the house races and we have not yet checked in on the house races so let us do that by going to washington abc's barry serafin barry peter i'm in the house ways and means committee hearing room and this is a room where they do things that actually affect your life taxes and social security and medicare the guessing is when this election is over with most of these chairs are going to be filled by most of the same people and that is expected to be true throughout the house nearly all the members of the house 408 of them are running for reelection two years ago 98 percent of incumbents were re-elected and that's not a new pattern over the past 40 years the average re-election rate has been 92 incumbents simply have too much of an advantage in name familiarity and staff and free mailing and most of all in money having said all that there may be a few incumbents in trouble tonight and probably the man at the top of the list at least that's what the guessing is is pat swindle he's the republican congressman in georgia's fourth district that's the atlantis suburbs as you see we're just getting some preliminary returns in only one percent of the precincts but swindle is behind at this point you remember pat swindle is the congressman who was indicted for lying to a grand jury about considering a loan financed with laundered drug money and his troubles have now been compounded the justice department is now investigating him for sending out some campaign literature talking about a polygraph test he took one other race we might point out to you simply because it's another incumbent but it's also a case where we might be looking for some ticket splitting is in indiana's third district john heiler is the republican incumbent out there and as you see he's now trailing his democratic challenger thomas ward now these these two men met two years ago and this is a rematch with some real history to it tom ward the democrat lost by just 47 votes last time they met and it took two months to count those votes i'm sure whatever happens both of them hope that won't be the case this time gentlemen okay barry thanks very much

01:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5401s)

gentlemen okay barry thanks very much david peter you were saying that dan quayle said he would have no statement tonight no pictures tonight no nothing tonight because you didn't want to upstage george bush at the head of the ticket he's learning to be the vice president very quickly playing second fiddle we have a couple of projections to make here we project now that the state of missouri is going to go for george bush another midwestern bellwether that had voted republican four out of the last five elections and we now project that missouri is going to bush and we are going to make a change in maryland we had earlier projected that maryland was going to go for michael dukakis and we now project that it is going to go for george bush so as you look at the map there let us have a look at the total electoral votes as they actually change up there at the moment and it hasn't caught up at the moment but george bush has at the moment david more than 250 and i don't think michael dukakis has more than 78 well according to our calculations it's 20 minutes after 9 eastern standard time based on the projections in the states where the polls have closed george bush has the electoral votes required to be the next president of the united states they um we were hearing from them a minute ago that maine did it for them put them over so 271 that's one more needed you can go home well they certainly can we get out of houston for a moment folks and talk very briefly to brit hume because in fact that was the word we got up from there great hume covers the bush campaign for us brit now the old phrase as maine goes so goes the nation suddenly turned the bush people on down there right well the the bush people had a had a an electoral strategy that was built on the south the mountain west a couple of the wheat states new jersey and ohio now with colorado hanging fire it was impossible to project that so the situation changed when we went when we showed connecticut for bush that was a state they weren't counting

01:32:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5521s)

that was a state they weren't counting on and then maine and it meant that all they needed was the remaining states in the mountain west excluding colorado now your projections in missouri and maryland make it beyond question okay thank you very much we're going to go away now so that you can concentrate on your local races around the country but as of now we project that george bush has 271 electoral votes and that's what it takes we'll be back on the half hour abc news coverage of the 88 vote continues once again peter jennings and david brinkley take a quick look at the popular vote here with 23 percent of the precincts reporting in from around the country it's hard to tell how considerable the turnout has been but there it is 23 55 of the vote going for george bush 11 million votes been tabulated and 45 for michael dukakis nine of them have been tabulated as well we're going to talk to senator barry goldwater in just a minute david you know i said this before we went away the last time that there was an enormous number of propositions on the ballot in california it says an enormous amount doesn't it about the sort of citizen participation democracy how there are propositions on about almost every state in the country well it's pretty much started in california to the best of my knowledge at least it's it became a big deal in california before it did anywhere else opposition 13. it's a coyote that was one example of it it's a kind of democratic populism that they have developed to a greater degree than any other state and every election now in california has some kind of proposition about something and uh some once they are voted by the public and approved sometimes are found unconstitutional in the courts but that's only a small percentage it's not just a part of the system there and at some extent you know they really do i'm just looking through them here they do reflect you know what have been in some respects the hot issues of the campaign or the times there are very tough anti-smoking measures uh on the ballot in in oregon in california crimes this question of shutting down furloughs

01:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5641s)

this question of shutting down furloughs which is an issue in the campaign eliminating parole for people on the ballot in oregon florida and michigan south dakota deregulation a lot of gun control maryland maryland has a very tough gun control law to ban the saturday night specials if it finally passes they're going to have a little board to say to decide what guns can be sold and which ones cannot i gather that cheap flimsy ones cannot but i don't quite understand why i mean uh would you rather be shot by an expensive gun or a cheap gun i don't i don't i don't understand that you were talking earlier about a dirty campaign and a negative campaign nobody better ready to talk about campaigns than senator barry goldwater who's consented to join us tonight from scottsdale arizona senator i remember sitting at the end of your driveway in 1964 and your wife very kindly brought chocolate cake down to young reporters sitting at the end of the driveway thank you for coming out it's a pleasure to have you he he is one of the great young figures in the republican party i want to make sure he can hear us can you hear us senator goldwater i can hear you now i had to turn it up a bit all right well i'm going to repeat my compliment if i may i was complimenting your wonderful wife who so well treated young reporters in your 64 campaign as we stood in the cold at the end of your driveway i also wanted to be sure he heard me describe him as one of the great young figures in the republican party he introduced in the modern sense introduced conservatism to america didn't you well i tried it it didn't take much introduction conservatism is the oldest philosophy known to man and most people believe in it but it had disappeared in this country during the new deal and when you brought it back in 64 a number of otherwise uh thoughtful people found it shocking and unintelligible didn't work first time it's worked since hasn't it uh there comes times in the american history

01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5760s)

history when people don't understand what's going on uh 64 was one of those times although that isn't the reason i lost the country wasn't ready for three presidents in two and a half years that's the whole thing senator york i was just saying the senator you were victims of one of the earliest negative television campaigns taking that as a baseline of experience what did you think of this year well i didn't think either one of them talked much about the issues i wouldn't call it a particularly dirty campaign although i thought the the atlanta convention that nominated dukakis was about the dirtiest thing i ever listened to it was funny just

funnier than hell i like to listen to that texas girl anytime she wants to talk but if you start a campaign like that it's going to wind up dirty well yours is a little rough they called you a warmonger and they had a commercial about an exploding atomic bomb a little girl picking daisies oh that little girl picking daisy that's the thing that started all this dirty campaigning and i hope that god we can do away with it there's no place in this country for negative or dirty campaigning and we should stop it now before it gets worse do you think there's any chance of that senator i do i think if we get the right people running and talk turkey to them that we can convince them that you can talk to the issues you can talk about yourself and you don't have to be nasty to each other i thought that both dukakis and and bush had chances to be very decent to each other they weren't always decent but you can't blame them what the hell you at one point said in the campaign to senator quail that he should go tell george bush to talk about the issues

01:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=5881s)

george bush to talk about the issues you still see do you still feel that he didn't do it uh let's put it this way george bush started out with a campaign against dukakis to paint him as a liberal and that's all he did just talk about liberal liberal liberal and made it a very dirty word which is all right with me well uh dukakis later came around to say yes i am a liberal after avoiding the subject for quite a long time was that surprising well no wasn't surprising he must be an honest man i don't know him sounds like an honest guy a nice fellow but uh if you're a liberal you're a liberal and i'm a conservative and i'm a conservative i have a final question there's some certain facts still left aren't they peter i just have a final question how are you feeling senator a lot of people in the country will be keen to know well i never felt better in my life i got a bad leg but i've had two bad legs as long as i quit playing football a riding horseback and i'm off to the hustings tomorrow and going to taiwan what what for senator oh i used to fly with those fellas in world war ii and i go back there about every year or two just to sit down have a few drinks and tell lies about flying there's no worse liars than pilots that may be politicians when they're off duty or a journalist a pilot had a politician you can't beat senator goldwater thank you very much for coming out there this evening uh david brinkley i know talk to you into coming up this evening and we very much appreciate you you coming senator senator thank you thank you thank you very much thank you david i must also say we're now in a position to project another state in the state of wisconsin which people keep shouting in my ear we are now able to project that dukakis is the winner

01:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6001s)

project that dukakis is the winner in the state of dakansas with electoral votes it was a real contest there for a while but dukakis has been ahead uh at the beginning and he remains ahead at the end and dukakis ahead in the state of wisconsin in fact by our by our estimation we now project that dukakis will win the state of the continent give them 83 83 electoral votes go back a little bit to what senator goldwater was talking about about dirty campaign he said that this was dirty of course george washington started it in some respects or at least during george washington's day it's been dirty a lot of times well it was it was more than dirty it was vicious in the early days of this country in the earlier political campaigns the language used what you really could not use it today in public couldn't i've looked up some of it i must tell you that in washington uh he was remembered to be adult a thief and a philanderer theodore roosevelt was called a drunkard and a drug fiend lincoln was criticized as being illegitimate can you remember some others grover cleveland there's a famous campaign slogan about gold let's see it's how'd it go where's your paul going to the white house because he was accused i think rightly of having an a child born out of wedlock and uh that little that little dog girl became a part of the campaign there's more at least on my brief list that i put together andrew jackson had a rough campaign his mother was called a prostitute and his father was identified as a mulatto though i'm not sure why that would have been that would have been a particular insult then of course not today here are some early unofficial returns i am told on propositions in the state of maryland the nra you may be interested in launched about a four million dollar campaign in the state of maryland uh against the proposition which would ban the saturday night specials there the nra outspent the defenders of the gun ban by

01:42:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6122s)

outspent the defenders of the gun ban by more than 12 to one one of the great spokesmen on the gun ban there was sarah brady the wife of jim brady president reagan's uh press secretary who was shot as you recall so what's the figure there 66 have rejected the measure to ban saturday night specials that as i said is an early return in maryland in colorado the proposition to make english an official language is winning 60 there's a proposition in colorado i think there's one in florida i may get it wrong in florida they are widely regarded by their opponents to be quite racist and in florida interestingly enough the justice department finally came along and said if you want to have a proposition on making english the official language you have to put it on the ballot in spanish colorado colorado also has has a proposition saying that state and local taxes may not be raised unless they're approved in a public vote don't have anything on that at the moment but we do have the initiative to prohibit state funding of abortion in colorado and it is losing 60 are in favor of keeping the prohibition there and an early return and a proposition from michigan there's a proposition there which is determines whether or not they will continue spending medicaid funds for abortion and the pro-life forces or the anti-abortion forces there are losing so i'm talking about california if you spend as much time in cars and on freeways as many or most californians do automobile insurance becomes of vital importance so there's a proposition to force the rates down one of them i think put forward by ralph nader yes the one that recalls for insurance rates to come down by about twenty percent and is the one if anyone passes the people think is going to pass in california take a quick last look here for the moment at our electoral calendar now george bush has 271 by our estimate and michael dukakis has 83. we're going to go away for a few minutes now so that you have an opportunity to concentrate much more than we've been

01:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6240s)

concentrate much more than we've been able to do here on the local politics in your region and the local issues but david and i will be back at the top of the hour with the rest of the national campaign hope you'll join us then from the abc news election night command center this is the 88 vote [Music] good evening is 10 o'clock eastern standard time i'm peter jennings along with david brinkley the polls have now closed in five more states so we are now in a position to make projections in five more states in utah we project that george bush wins in ronald reagan's best state in 1980 and in 1984 no doubt that was going to republican in idaho the only uncertainty was going to be the margin george bush we project in idaho solid republican state dukakis was never competitive there in nevada we also project george bush the only question there tonight will come to it is whether he can carry in senator chick hecht for a second term a projection for michael dukakis in iowa where he did not win the caucuses at the beginning of the year we project he wins the eight electoral votes there tonight iowa where the whole process started david brinkley ages and ages and ages and ages ago and it took him eight months to get back to iowa and win it he lost it the first time we also have another projection which again is no big surprise this is in the state of utah we project a winner in the race for the senate is the incumbent orrin hatch republican he defeated a man named brian moss who was the son of a senator frank moss whom hatch defeated in 1976 now 12 years later he defeats his son orrin hatch the winner republican senate utah and that brings us up to 10 o'clock [Music]

01:46:05 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6365s)

[Music] from abc news this is continuing coverage of the 88 with sam donaldson at the dukakis headquarters in boston britt hume at the busch headquarters in houston james wooten and barry sarafin on capitol hill lynn scherr and jeff greenfield in new york and now reporting from the abc news election night command center peter jennings and david brinkley [Music] there are some states at the presidential level at the moment which are simply too close to call and i'll run those down for you they are pennsylvania and michigan illinois and vermont and as of poll closings at 10 o'clock just a few minutes ago montana is too close to call and colorado new mexico and south dakota which closed their polls over an hour ago are also too close to call we also can now make a projection in the florida senate race where kenneth buddy mckay the democrat the more liberal of the two candidates we project has won against connie mack mack had hoped for coattails from george bush he didn't get them florida's looking more and more like a republican state every day at the presidential level but there's another example tonight of people splitting their vote and we project that buddy mckay who is a democrat who had a really rigorous primary season uh amongst his fellow democrats they finally came

together and pulled it out for him there and that is i said a reflection david a ticket splitting which you've seen in a lot of places around the country well i think we're going to live with those who object to it are going to live with the democratic congress into the future distant future there it in the house of representatives there is almost no turnover the last time last time i think it was 98 point something of those who ran for re-election who won the senate is not quite that high but is very close to it once you get into congress you stay there for life

01:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6481s)

there for life so the democratic is going to remain so i think in the house it was i think you're very close i think it was either 97.5 90 something of incumbents who returned uh four years ago so we'll obviously they have this tremendous advantage of money candidates for congress raised this year 360 million dollars and they got a third of that from political action committees and the overwhelming amount of money from political action committees goes to incumbents as you well know i don't know i'm telling you this the members of congress have spent a generation and more rigging the electoral process to favor themselves they can mail out free newsletters their opponents can't and there are a dozen other things that they can do they pile up money just pile it up we mentioned the senate race in florida there is uh the polls have not closed as you know in california and there is of course still a very important senate race in california where the pete wilson the incumbent is running against the lieutenant governor leo mccarthy out there and that is one to refer to what david was just saying of the most expensive races in the country but one will be watching very carefully in california tonight let's go to washington however where abc's jim wooten is standing by with one of the best known republicans in the country senator robert dole jim oh senator dole join us in just a moment i wanted to talk to you a little bit peter about all of these senate races that we've projected so far 28 races across the country we've called we've called the winners in that 18 of them were won by democrats so far nine of them by republicans that leaves only six left according to our account we're showing that's a pickup of two seats for the democrats which would take their majority to 56 44. what that means of course is that uh senator robert doe who's with us now coming here senator uh is the leader of a minority that's even more of a minority i suppose we don't we still have some possibilities in montana we have a chance for a pickup we want to hold montana wyoming and california

01:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6601s)

hold montana wyoming and california we've got some key races and if we lose those we are going to be a real minority and it's going to be tougher for george bush than he thought it uh given what's happened so far it may be tough david brinkley was raising a question a few moments ago about the existence perhaps of a honeymoon with this kind of a synod with the kind of a campaign we've had and it's toned is there going to be a honeymoon for george bush i i'd go back to what lloyd benson said i have a lot of respect for lloyd benson he said last week in one of the programs i watched that yes when it comes to governing uh we have to do it and we're going to try to work with the new president whether been dukakis or george bush it's going to be george bush and i believe we can work together but it's going to be tougher because the bottom line in this town is how many votes do you have and we're going to have fewer than we had last year and i must say we're going to use little help from the vice president some of those states florida we pleaded with them to go to florida but uh we lost that nevada they flew over nevada several times we're going to win nevada in any event but uh it's uh you've got a combination as david also said of a big business and big labor sort of perpetuating democrats in power he didn't say that i say that you've now you've had the previous business with george bush in in campaigning uh he uh slugged you pretty good in new hampshire with some commercials what did you think of the tone of the bush campaign well i was told in new hampshire that people didn't like negative ads so we didn't run any i lost so you know i think negative ads do get your attention i think they do focus on a weakness in my case whatever it was uh but george bush is a good decent person he'll be a good person to work with he's going to try to bring the consensus into congress and i think he can do it he knows most every member of congress republicans and democrats you've been reading his lips senator well not lately what about no new taxes is that possible here lloyd benson and george bush settle at two texans both on the ticket

01:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6720s)

two texans both on the ticket and they can get together and work that that matter but i'll help george bush he said no new taxes i'm i'll be the republican leader and we'll help him try to keep that promise peter senator i was just listening to your observation about trying to get george bush to go to uh florida to help connie mack down there is the implication there that george bush doesn't have many coattails around the country well so far you look at connecticut we've lost one and uh look in florida we've lost one i don't think there are any coattails in this race so we hope to win in montana but uh it's unfortunate but i think if george bush wins big we don't gain any seats in the house we lose three or four seats in the senate that's going to make it more difficult what is that what does that say about a mandate such as the one george bush has asked the country for well it's not amanda i think it's probably much of mandate as jack kennedy had or or jimmy carter but i think the mandate i think the business is already there in my view we've got to deal with the deficit nobody's talked much about that and hopefully we can find enough of us working with the president the new president to deal with that first beyond that i don't know of any real mandate we've got to address a lot of issues but i would hope the mandate is to deal with the deficit senator you said in new hampshire they told you people didn't like negative campaigning so you didn't do it and you lost does that mean you suppose that from here on we're going to see my opponent a liar and a thief and he lets murderers out of jail this and that is that our future well i hope not i think a certain amount of negative cam comparative campaigning i guess uh ads as roger ailes calls them uh are okay but we're going to be fairly careful maybe we can figure out some better way in the next couple of years the next four years but we have to look at campaign finance reform otherwise incumbents are never going to lose around this place republicans or democrats they'll lose a few seats we'll lose a few but incumbents have a big big advantage that the challenger doesn't have and i'm an incumbent so i can say that with some credibility and we're going to take a look at how we finance campaigns and put

01:54:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6842s)

finance campaigns and put some limit on political action committees or wipe them out all together senator dole thank you very much for taking the time jim we'll come back to you if we may a little later on for a further assessment of the senate race you want to take a look at the house now and go across to the other side of capitol hill and very seraphin barry well peter senator dole was just talking about the big advantage that incumbents have and money from political action committees and elsewhere you and david were talking a little earlier about the lack of turnover in congress well let me give you an example let me give you the current projection for the new congress that is the new house of representatives it looks right now according to abc's projection as though the democrats will pick up exactly one seat out of all these 435 races when all the dust settles incumbents indeed do have a huge advantage we should point out that in in the house of representatives there are about 60 incumbents running with no opponents and yet they've collected 15 million dollars including seven and a half million from political action committees gentlemen thanks bernie we'll come back to you for another look at how the race is going david you know senator dole race the number of things we can talk about the deficit i did not do a scientific survey but as i wanted around the country for 10 days i found two issues people talked about whether they were rich or poor black or white old young one was the deficit there was the feeling that it was coming to haunt their children and to haunt their grandchildren and the other the last line sure about this earlier this evening or later this evening as to was the homeless the deficit and the homeless were the things that people wanted to talk about i do not know at all whether they have showed up in tonight's exit polls we'll be back right after these messages from the abc news election night command center in new york the 88 vote continues once again peter jennings and david brinkley it is a quarter after 10 eastern

01:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=6961s)

it is a quarter after 10 eastern standard time and the polls have continued to close around the country you can see what our map looks like at the moment we are now in a position to make two more projections one that has been too close to call for some time michigan we now project will go for george bush there was a big battle up there for the blue collar reagan democrats george bush appears to have won it and as we move out

to the west we also project that colorado will go for george bush as well the caucus had tried to break the republican lock on the mountain states there and he failed there's been a prolonged energy recession in colorado and yet george bush and president reagan have not suffered tonight as a result of that so what we're left with is a moment aside from those places on the west coast where the polls have not closed where there are interesting senate races where there are all sorts of propositions are some too close to call states being pennsylvania illinois still no word there from vermont and also montana new mexico and south dakota where the polls have closed we estimate are now still too close to call david an observation well i would like to turn to mr kissinger who's just come to join us and ask you do you find it strange that we have during this campaign heard so little about foreign policy in general and next to nothing about the changes in the soviet union and what they might might mean to us sometimes it's strange because i think that in foreign policy there were really major differences between the two candidates and that might have given some kind of a mandate for where to go had they been more fully discussed in fact i think that the vice president gave at least two speeches that i know about that were very thoughtful that i never saw covered anyway he has made the same complaint i might say and uh well where are you go ahead i wasn't saying really define foreign policy in an election campaign don't you by how well we're getting along with the soviets

01:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7080s)

soviets and whether or not other countries are threatening us with their trade policies is there any other reason that's important but the real problem we'll have in the next administration is how do we define getting along well with the soviets and can't continue to define it in terms of personal relationships with gorbachev because he won't be there forever and we don't really know what his ultimate strategy will be so now the president-elect will have to define the political framework for relations with the soviets in addition to arms control if you were advising or organizing a political campaign for one of them what would you tell him to say about the soviet union i would say that we have not only 70 years of communist history but 400 years of russian history and the congenital problem with this russian russian state has been that they have felt insecure partly with reason but partly because they could not be reassured except through the impotence of their neighbors so there has been a constant expansion of the russian state ever since the 17th century and the problem of peace in relation with the soviet union and with the russian state is whether they're willing to accept living in a state of balance with their neighbors and to put that into some concrete terms that is the big challenge and i think opportunity because if the so if there are soviets cannot negotiate it now when they have major domestic problems and when all the surrounding countries are growing faster than they do then when are we ever going to negotiate i have three sort of short-term practical questions dr kissinger did george bush president-elect if you will say anything in this campaign which will impair his getting his dealing with the soviets to the best of your knowledge i think what he has said the speeches that i have read

02:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7200s)

the speeches that i have read will be uh will be helpful what about the idea that was broached during the campaign that president reagan should have another meeting with mr gorbachev and take george bush along with him as if to provide a transition i think that that the president-elect should now take a few weeks or months or whatever time he needs to define what he wants to achieve then i like the idea of a philosophical meeting with gorbachev in which they define their agenda and don't try to negotiate but to try to russian agreement in these first few in the last few weeks of the reagan administration or to give the impression that there's some personal relationship that can be transferred from one to the other i don't think that would be helpful at all we have to get to substance now we have to get it away from personality on the eve of our election the soviet union's most famous dissident andrei sakharov has arrived in the united states for a visit whereas a couple of years ago he was internal exile does that augur well for soviet american relations in the months ahead at least i think sakharov is a moving and great man i've had the privilege of meeting it he's indicated incidentally he's in favor of the economic reform program of uh of kobachov he's worried about the accumulation of power in in the personality of of gorbachev i don't think we can make our foreign policy depend on the internal evolution of the soviet union and we have to put it into terms of national security i think that major changes going on in the soviet union but i sometimes have the impression that gorbachev

has thrown a lot of balls up into the air and he's not yet pulled very many of them down and so we can't just rely on him we have to make our own input my last question is fairly obvious any role for henry kissinger and the bush administration would you like to serve in government again no i'll be a friendly outside advisor no desire to be on the inside again no

02:02:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7323s)

no desire to be on the inside again no said he hesitatingly well no i it does you know this is like these vice presidential questions you either sound coy or cute and uh i'm happy with my personality yeah we won't characterize it as a coyote thanks dr kitten different coming to join a very brief stop in houston before we go to aspiration what's the vice president's schedule in the next little while britt the official schedule the official schedule peter is for him to come here in about 45 minutes that's the schedule it was handed out to us much earlier in the day we haven't seen any members of the high command here to talk to us or spin us as it were but i think that they're beginning to arrive here now i think it's become fairly clear at least in their eyes that they've got it okay thanks very much one of the things that mr bush and mr dukakis both said before tonight was that they were not going to make any public comments about victory or defeat until after the polls had closed on the west coast so it may be some time before we see or hear from either one of them we will be back shortly [Music] [Applause] [Music] from abc news this is continuing coverage of the american electoral process this is the 88 vote now reporting from the abc news election night command center in new york peter jennings and david brinkley 10 30 eastern standard time abc news now projects that in the state of montana george bush is going to be the winner in big sky country for electoral votes george bush to take montana david well i also have a projection from montana doc melcher the veterinarian who had the commercial of cows talking to each other

02:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7441s)

commercial of cows talking to each other has lost kindly old doc melcher they called him he was defeated by conrad burns a republican he which was a surprise they thought in montana that doc melcher would win he didn't and let's go back there to that uh vote board again the electoral board again and take a look at what george bush now has with that win in montana by our projection he has 316 electoral votes michael dukakis has 91 and it may be david that we are tiptoeing around the story of the night here even though the polls have not closed in the west as we said earlier in the day it is quite possible for a presidential candidate to put together the 270 electoral votes needed in the east and the midwest and we're talking about having elected the new president of the united states tonight george bush we are indeed talking about it does appear that that is what we have done there was some talk about winning the uh losing the popular vote and winning the electoral vote is that what we're talking about well i was really just more talking about the fact that there is a reluctance i think in the media to take a look at the map and say it isn't all over until the west coast votes but let's look at the map again it is just so easy to put together the 270 electoral votes while not hearing from oregon and washington and california and hawaii and alaska and pennsylvania and pennsylvania which is too close to calling illinois and vermont and new mexico and south dakota which are still too close to call but all you have to do is take a look at that tonight and there is no doubt i think in anybody's mind that george bush is going to be the next president of the united states so let us canvas the nation and see how that news is playing in the various campaigns let's go to boston first to the dukakis campaign headquarters in sam donaldson sam what's happening well peter i'm staking out the back door of the world trade center here in boston most of my career has been sticking out the back door rather than the front door but it's here that michael dukakis will come in just a few minutes he's left his home in brookline he's on the way his uh his supporters of course are inside waiting to greet him he won't actually go on stage until after 11 o'clock for the obvious reason the polls will not have closed in the west

02:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7560s)

not have closed in the west and unlike jimmy carter who in 1980 disastrously many democrats thought conceded the election before the polls had closed in the west michael dukakis is not going to do that but he'll come here and sometime after 11 o'clock he'll go out and he'll make whatever statement he thinks appropriate before his supporters what do the people in the hall have to say sam oh the mood is kind of i won't say grim but no one is cheering and yelling once in a while someone will get up and they'll say we've won a great victory tonight in the commonwealth of massachusetts it's gone overwhelmingly for dukakis and benson they want to go ray and then they'll announce another state but uh everybody understands that the network projections are what they are and the evening is not going well for the governor in fact sam while you're just standing there we're going to project new mexico for george bush with its five electoral votes there and the largest percentage of hispanic votes in the country in new mexico goes to george bush and sam you mentioned massachusetts in talking to folks up there today there are a lot of democrats in massachusetts who are kind of laying for mikey caucus am i right or wrong but i think that's true dukakis in the last several months of his administration has been under a great deal of fire particularly for instance on the budget he likes to say that he's balanced 10 budgets but the one he's got at the moment is out of balance because of slowness and receipts and there are people who are going to say if he loses this election tonight but that's it for you mike uh you need not apply to run for governor again in 1990 which is when his term is up uh he is not someone i mean dukakis is a very controversial figure here he's not universally loved he's not universally hated he's sort of on the edge and he's not someone who automatically will be reelected even though he was rejected by the nation sam you've used the phrase again if he loses the election tonight is there anyone in the dukakis camp to the best of your knowledge who will not know now that michael dukakis has lost the 1988 presidential election well i suppose not i was talking to susan estridge a few minutes ago the campaign manager of course she's not going to concede for her candidate that's up to him to concede if he wishes to and i tried out on

02:08:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7680s)

to and i tried out on her something we were saying earlier tonight and that is that if it's a narrow loss not the blowout that a lot of the polls predicted there would be a lot of backbiting and a lot of recriminations if only we'd done this if only we've done that her view is just the opposite she says if it's a narrow loss we will be very proud because the democratic party cannot feel rejected it will not be a rejection for the party it'd be a much better thing okay sam thank you very much we'll come back to you and of course is the point we've made earlier this evening david is that the democratic party has not been rejected by any means because at the senate level and the house level and the governor's chairs the democrats are doing exceedingly well yeah they still have congress and show every sign of keeping it as far ahead as we can see democrats they have not been rejected what does that say to you about the presidential candidates that it really comes down to personality the people very often say that the american people like divided government they like a congress of one party and the white house another i've never really run into anyone who said i like divided government i'm going to vote for the president and one party and a congressman in another i think it's just how it works out congress is members of congress are essentially local officials people know them they write them letters all the time they send them little booklets and send them pictures and so on all free taxpayers expense and so they get themselves reelected in other words i think what you're saying is the people don't go into the ballot into the polling booth and say hi i'm voting here for checks and balances tonight i don't think so yeah let's go down to houston now and talk to brit hume who's been covering the bush campaign from the beginning so what's the mood down there brit well peter the mood down here is very jubilant and the uh the people have been filing into this uh this ballroom here at the george brown convention center in growing numbers over the last 30 to 45 minutes and the three networks have now all projected george bush the winner and that caused a huge roar to go up here just a little while ago there are a couple of men you may be able to see behind me up on the stage there putting a big sign up on the on the curtain that says america wins

02:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7801s)

on the curtain that says america wins for the last couple of minutes i haven't been able to hear very much of our broadcast because the music has been going very very loud there's a bunch of country and western singers here as you know george bush loves that kind of music and the same people that have been doing the pa work at george bush's rallies have obviously done the speaker work here because it's absolutely deafening that may be the reason why demonstrators never had much luck drowning out george bush it was because he had so many amps of amplification behind him that it was impossible and that's the way it's going to be here in a little while when he comes and the music is going at the same time okay bravo we'll come back to that notwithstanding and listen to you we can hear you actually quite well up here despite what it must have seemed like in your ear let's go over now in our election headquarters and listen to jeff greenfield jeff uh we do we have another president next president yeah it seems so and we've also got uh a senate that is going to have more democrats than before let me point out something to you 1972 in the nixon landslide the democrats picked up two senate seats 1984 the reagan re-election landslide the democrats picked up two senate seats what's the one exception 1980 when ronald reagan won by 10 points and 12 democrats lost and 33 democratic congressmen lost despite all the incumbency advantages david brinkley talked about why because 1980 was an ideological election it was a very coherent political choice and for my money the lesson is when you have a presidential election which we do every so often decided on clear ideological grounds you have a much more likely chance of the congress moving in that direction when you have a relatively content-less election and i'll go out on on the limb and say this was one of them it's much easier for a voter to go in and split his ticket and i think that is what is happening tonight peter david what what's your own feeling jeff about the effect this has on the west coast i know you've spent a lot of time studying whether or not people in the west are really affected yeah the biggest problem that i have with that argument is i don't know who leaves the polls when we announce who wins is it in this case bush supporters who know their guy has won or dukakis supporters who know the guy

02:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=7921s)

or dukakis supporters who know the guy has lost um it seems to me very unlikely particularly in an election where all the polls for weeks have been saying george bush would win that a dedicated voter would go to the polls and then somehow hear the network newscast and go home i think restraint is a is a good idea on our part for its own sake but i have never yet figured out which are the voters that were supposed to be driving back from the polls jeff wouldn't it be reasonable to assume that people who left without voting because they thought it was over would they not have voted essentially the same as those who did get in to vote well you're asking me to do exactly what i'm criticizing our critics are doing which is to speculate i think it's pure speculation i think it's reasonable to assume that voters on the west coast uh who have tight senate races all through that region and who have tight congressional races and incredibly controversial propositions are smarter than to just leave and go home when what was likely to happen for the last few weeks has apparently happened i've just never bought that argument i must confess that some of the complaints jeff have come from the state of washington uh where the race between dukakis and bush was deemed for a long period of time to be very close we don't know how that's going to turn out tonight we're obviously going to stay around until they report in but that is where the complaints came from four years ago and maybe where they'll come from again tonight question is how are people voting and why are they voting what issues are they voting for are they voting for a candidate are they voting against a candidate let's go to the upper deck and abc helene insurer here we have some information on a couple of those toss-up states you've been referring to the big industrial states of illinois and pennsylvania too close to coal still at this hour and one of the reasons is that in these states there is a real battle for the democrats who voted for ronald reagan in 1984. let's take a look at the numbers just for example in the state of pennsylvania the 84 reagan democrats democrats bush is getting 45 percent dukakis 54. now what that means is the dukakis is holding on to enough of those so-called reagan democrats to keep it close that is also happening in illinois let's go to another issue or rather another way the voters

02:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8042s)

issue or rather another way the voters are voting and this is called gender men are splitting their vote 50 for bush 49 for dukakis this again in pennsylvania however when it comes to women the majority are voting for mike dukakis 55-44 the same thing is happening in illinois so it seems that um in these two states illinois and pennsylvania so far too close to called the traditional democratic coalition seems to be coming home to dukakis they seem to be leaving reagan and that's one of the reasons why those races are so tight right now gentlemen okay lynn thanks very much and that may tell us something about the last minute campaigning that michael dukakis indulged in what people will some people will call too little too late in pennsylvania and illinois where he you know gave new life to the liberal image even though it's an image which many liberals in massachusetts don't think he deserves but that's how he campaigned in the final days of the campaign in illinois specifically and in pennsylvania we'll be back because we're waiting for michael the caucus to appear we'll be back in just a moment abc news election night coverage of the 88 vote will continue in a moment that's a familiar sight to those of us along the campaign trail this year michael dukakis showing up in a motorcade with his wife kitty this time arriving at the boston world trade center where he and his staff and his supporters have made their headquarters this evening in boston well governor looks like a pretty tough night very soon i'll be speaking inside sam how do you feel mr cochran okay all right governor any regrets that you didn't start earlier this is dukakis kenny dukakis and the governor just arriving from uh

02:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8160s)

governor just arriving from uh their home in brookline on perry's street the governor said he'd be speaking inside when he was asked whether it wasn't a tough night for him clearly he understands the arithmetic of everything uh peter and david but he's not going to appear to make any sort of a statement until uh at least after eleven o'clock when the polls have closed in california tam as as he said earlier that he that he would not make a statement until after the polls are close to california but an impressive thing to me there he's always stopped hasn't he along the campaign trail to talk to you different from george bush in that respect well during the last two or three weeks he's stopped to talk a little bit he was in a period peter i must tell you in september and early october when he was stiffing reporters on the trail also on the theory that he didn't want our questions and his answers to get in the way of what his daily message was pretty good theory i suppose except his message wasn't much during that period and it would have been better i suppose that he answered the questions and sam i don't know whether the rule will apply to senator benson but there he is in texas this evening with his wife a man who will return to washington as the senator from texas but there he is in austin this evening coming to greet his supporters he really in some respects has had the best of both worlds in texas and compton at his headquarters i can hear you go ahead annie this is lloyd benson's great moment with his texas family but it's a bittersweet one lloyd benson really had thought up until the end there was a chance that he could pull out some greater strength here in texas and although he is emerging from this campaign something with a white hat on it's got to be a bittersweet moment he doesn't have any interest in being a leader in the national party but he certainly will especially with a senate advantage for the democrats try to exert himself now on the issues of the party he'll be heading up to boston either

02:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8281s)

he'll be heading up to boston either tomorrow or thursday to meet with governor dukakis there with his wife b.a the woman he calls his best asset gentlemen thank you anne and his father his 95 year old father off to his right who set him up in business many years ago set him on the road to becoming a millionaire as well as a successful politician in congress from whence he quit and went running for the senate and of course he has not done it in texas for michael dukakis but let's hear what he has to say this evening [Applause] how wonderful to be with our friends we're just delighted to be home in texas i've about given this voice away crossing this great country of ours but i i'm so pleased to be home with our family and and with with this packed room and the room back there where they can't see us and i know this well this evening is still early but it's not boy my voice is just about gone the last speech was at three o'clock this morning at a rally here in austin we i think uh yesterday we did four states and eight rallies and i don't know how many interviews that sort of thing it's been an incredible experience the evening is still early but it's not too early to claim victory in my re-election to the united states senate

02:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8400s)

just in case you haven't picked up with it this is a law that was put back in lyndon johnson's day when he was running with vice president with jack kennedy that if he lost on the with kennedy he could still represent texas in the senate that's exactly what lloyd benson will do he will continue to represent texas as among other things the chairman of the senate finance committee those returns are not complete but they sure are conclusive and i didn't want to wait a minute longer to thank the people of texas for their wonderful and generous support and their commitment to me i'd also like to make a comment about mike dukakis he and i waged a campaign that's worthy of the american people [Applause] in many polls people said they would have preferred lloyd benson at the top of a ticket he was in many ways on occasion the most popular campaigner of the four throughout the year we told you the truth and we stepped up to those issues we challenged america to do better we fought fair and we never quit and we never lost our faith in the truth that's what you need in a campaign i have never seen a candidate that worked any harder when those last three or four weeks delivered a message any stronger than did mike dukakis in those closing days and he made me proud not quite sure whether this is an acceptance speech in his senator's race or a concession speech as a vice presidential candidate if it's the latter it's the first time ever the vice presidential candidate is conceded before the presidential one running mate and he made me proud to be an american

02:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8520s)

an american well he hasn't really said anything about that right now i want to focus on texas because texas is our home this has been an unusual campaign i recognize the difficulties that you had to go through as friends of mine and supporters of mine i think truly unlike any campaign that's gone before every hazard was there every difficulty was twice as hard and victory is twice as sweet in that senate race and your efforts are very important because there's still a lot of work to do a lot to be done for this great state of ours that's really taken some hits been through the one of the toughest decades in the history of our great state but we all know that the people of texas have been through those crisis before from the alamo to the dust bowl to the great depression the boom and bust of the energy industry we have always solved those problems and we've always come back tougher than before because the people of this great state they have spirit they're risk takers new battles well little bits of history texas has no democrat has ever won the white house without winning texas since texas joined the union lloyd dukakis hasn't mentioned it but he was supposed to win texas for mike dukakis republicans said when he was chosen that the democrats were committing political suicide in texas he spent about a third of his campaign there and the result is that mike dukakis loses in texas and lloyd benson by a strange i think david texas only law is returned to the senate or as i know i would like to say something that lloyd benson probably will not say because it would seem

02:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8641s)

will not say because it would seem cantankerous if he said it but to be chairman of the senate finance committee a senior member of the senate with a vote i know what you're going to say what i'm going to say is is a better job than being vice president vice president has a gavel period and numerous people who have been asked to be vice president said no i'd rather have a vote than a gavel he's going back to where he was before having had a rich and no doubt rewarding experience running for the vice presidency going back to where he was with increased respect in the senate certainly increased stature everything has gone right for it most of the country among democrats right it'll be interesting to ask andy compton a little later in the evening whether or not he really feels unhappy or not but in the meantime at five minutes before eleven eastern standard time three minutes before the polls close in california oregon and washington we'll be back an agenda coming monday on abc's world news tonight with peter jennings [Music] abc news coverage of the 88 vote brought to you by city corps [Music] welcome back to our election headquarters in new york you can see back up there on the map what it looks like we're just a few minutes away now from pole closing time in the states of washington and oregon and california hawaii and alaska are still to come we can now project a couple of other states which have been too close to call up until now in south dakota we project that george bush is going to be the winner there the caucus had campaigned hard for south dakota that's the state that

would have preferred bob dole of course to george bush in vermont which has voted democrat only once in its history we project that george bush is the winner in the state of vermont with its three electoral votes a sort of overall popular vote as of now 46 percent of the

02:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8761s)

popular vote as of now 46 percent of the precincts have reported in from around the country 54 of those reporting and going for george bush and 46 are going for michael dukakis in the senate there's a net gain of one for the democrats so far based on our projection there's still a couple of fascinating senate races still to be resolved one in the state of washington and one in the state of california particularly governors the democrats have a net gain at two so far they took indiana and west virginia from the republicans based on our projections so far and in the house not much change at all as david has been pointing out a number of times this evening not much ever changes in the house uh in terms of incumbents the democrats have a net gain only of one so percentage-wise i don't know what that is but it's very large or very small one thing before we go peter that i think should not be lost and that is a george bush sentence which i treasure i think everyone will it is this quote it is no exaggeration to say that undecided voters couldn't go either way okay got one more no i'll get bush to give you one if you want okay we are going to um tell our local stations a small piece of information but we're going to go off here on time at 11 o'clock eastern standard time to accommodate local stations all around the country who want to do their late local news at this point or their local election cutaways that's an agreement we had made earlier we are going to come back at any time that michael dukakis appears at his campaign headquarters in boston there to make his concession speech and george bush of course is going to make what is clearly a victory speech shortly after 11 o'clock eastern time as well so we'll either be back when michael dukakis shows up to make a concession speech between 11 and 11 30 eastern standard time or we'll come back at the end of the half hour now david you can have another go there well i don't have another go i i the so-called negative campaign has been interesting one of the uh one of the one of the democrats said

02:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=8880s)

one of the one of the democrats said george bush made it sound as if when when if michael dukakis were installed as president in about 15 minutes of burglars would be climbing into your bedroom window and they're furious about it i think the negative campaigning it's it's not new granted but we haven't had that much of it lately if i had time to go to jeff greenfield now he would have told us an awful lot about this because he's writing a novel the plot of which involves the electoral college but the electoral colleges most people know is not a college but electoral uh representatives will meet in about a month from now in their various state capitals who actually cast the votes uh which will make george bush the 41st president of the united states on january the 6th the vice president opens and counts the ballots in the presence of the house and the senate and bush will proclaim himself president-elect we'll be back when michael dukakis shows up [Music] standard time november the 8th 1988 to caucus election night headquarters he is about to come down for one of the most important one of the terminal moments on election losing candidate comes to make his concession speech his supporters have been gathered there for many many hours they started off at least with a public image that they could pull it out this evening [Music] trade center here in boston he was preceded by members of his family his daughters andrea and kara his son john john's wife lisa his mother trippy dukakis his father-in-law harry ellis dixon there they are on the stage in this large cavernous

02:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9001s)

on the stage in this large cavernous hall lots of the supporters here very very good proud the crowd of course knows what the governor is going to tell them as far as who won and who lost tonight but i must tell you though there has not been any weeping that i've seen here they are mike dukakis after 48 hours of campaigning non-stop prior to this election morning this afternoon he actually went power walking which is his exercise in his neighborhood in brookline massachusetts i suppose he's gotten a little sleep his wife kitty who campaigned both with him and uh separately in this last closing ten day period you know it's interesting

early on the governor would come out to before crowds and almost immediately begin to speak but now he savors the applause pointing at one of his supporters [Music] the music of course you hear coming to america the theme song that he used all during his campaign [Music] [Applause] being raised by a lot of his supporters here in the hall [Applause] you know it's tough on nights like this for losing candidates but i must tell you so far so far there hasn't been a lot of weeping in this fall [Applause] thank you all very very much kenny and i and our family can't even begin to express

02:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9120s)

begin to express our gratitude to you and to hundreds of thousands of people like you across this country who have given so much to us and to the american people in the last 18 months [Applause] just a few minutes ago i called vice president bush and congratulated him on his victory and i know i speak for all of you and for all the american people when i say that he will be our president and we'll work with him this nation faces major challenges ahead and we must work together and i extended my best wishes to him and mrs bush and the members of the bush family [Applause] kitty and i kitty and i what they're chanting i believe is and i 92-92 had a chance to talk to lloyd and b.a benson and we and i know we express your feelings when i say that he and she were superb running mates they're wonderful friends i'm so proud of that choice so proud of both of them and we have formed a friendship which will last as long as we live on this planet they are two wonderful people and lloyd benson has

02:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9241s)

wonderful people and lloyd benson has been one of the great assets of this campaign [Applause] just 18 months ago on what as some of you will recall was a cold and snowy april day i asked you for your support in running what i called a marathon for the highest honor that the american people can bestow on anyone i said there'd be good days and we had a lot of good days didn't we and i said there'd be not so good days and we had a few of those too [Music] and i talked about another marathon that i had run in april of 1951 when i found myself struggling up a hill or two and people saying to me looking good duke go to it that is what you have done and i'm very grateful to you [Applause] we had those good and not so good days we reach heartbreak hill and overcame it and then we found the strength to make that final kick and tonight my heart is filled with gratitude to everyone who has made this extraordinary experience of ours possible from my friends and neighbors here in massachusetts to those 3 000 people who were waiting for us at three o'clock this morning in des

02:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9360s)

at three o'clock this morning in des moines iowa as i think back on this marathon i'll never forget the beauty of this magnificent land from those beautiful colonial villages of new hampshire to the farmland of iowa to the magnificence of yellowstone and the california coast [Applause] [Music] but most of all i'll remember the people i've met their strength their values their generosity and their hospitality to kitty and me and to our family and it is very important that we continue to fight for them and for families all across america [Applause] we've got to fight for that young family in levittown in long island new york that wants to buy a home in the community in which they grew up and can't afford it we've got to fight for that family in sioux city iowa that can't afford health insurance to pay the bills for its young son we've got to fight for those high school students in los angeles who are saying no to drugs and yes to their future [Applause] we've got to open up that door of college opportunity to every young person in this country who is qualified to do college work

02:38:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9482s)

[Applause] we've got to fight to end the shame of homelessness in this country and this great and good nation ought to be able to do that we've got to fight for those unemployed steel workers in mckeesport pennsylvania and youngstown ohio who ought to be able to have a good job at a good wage to support themselves and their families and we've got to fight for those families i met with in glen avon california whose children today are permanently crippled because they happen to live next door to one of the worst toxic

waste dumps in the united states of america this campaign has not been just about me and lloyd benson it's been about these families and the challenges they face every day of their lives it's been about all of us and the values and the ideals that we share that's what we've been fighting for and that is what we must continue to work for every day and every week and every month of our lives [Applause] i'm going to continue to work for these goals with you with my fellow governors with a democratic congress and i'm proud to say that we not only will continue to have a democratic congress but it looks as if a strengthened democratic senate

02:40:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9607s)

a strengthened democratic senate we'll be working with the new administration and above all i'll be working with the people of massachusetts let me say thank you to many many people in this country those who gave us their support those hundreds of thousands of volunteers who worked so hard and so long and so tirelessly i want to thank the members of the world's oldest and greatest party the democratic party for all that they did i want to thank this wonderful family of mine kitty and john and andrea carr and lisa and my mother and kitty's dad they've been terrific [Applause] and let me simply conclude by saying this to all of you and to people like you all across the country and especially to those of you who are young people and there are many young people here [Applause] there is nothing you can do in this world more fulfilling and more satisfying and giving of yourself to others and making a contribution to your community and your state and your nation and your fellow citizens [Applause] and one of the things that i'm proudest of in this campaign

02:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9721s)

of in this campaign is the thousands and thousands of young people are involved i don't want you to be discouraged i want you to be encouraged by what you've done in this campaign i hope many of you will go into politics and public service it is a noble profession a noble profession [Applause] oh i remember what my dad used to say to me over and over again much has been given to you and much is expected of you much has been given to the young people of this country the opportunity to live and grow up in the greatest nation on the face of this earth and you have a responsibility to give something back our hearts are full we love you all we love this country [Applause] and we're going to continue to fight with you and with the american people so that every citizen of this country can be a full shareholder in the american dream thank you all very very [Applause] much [Applause] yeah uh it looked to be pretty weak let me ask you about the question whether the party moves right or left is there going to be a sort of uh romance about going back to smoke-filled rooms the democratic parties had an enduring process which has produced a weak candidate well first place aren't enough smokers to fill a smoke-filled room anymore second the original smoke-filled room was in the blackstone hotel and it produced

02:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9840s)

the blackstone hotel and it produced warren harding he won a landslide that was a miserable president so i think that the romance of that is is overrated in fact the democratic party's danger is that they may be viewed as a merely legislative party okay george will and tom would you thanks very much we'll come back to you a little later in the evening but there you see it at busch headquarters in houston with 327 electoral votes for himself on the board by our projection the president-elect and mrs bush michael dukakis has 108 on our projected electoral vote board and we shall see rick hue i mean houston is saying that we should be looking here now for signs of george bush trying to mend some of the damage that has been done in the country some of the divisiveness that has been caused by this campaign he has won 36 states tonight has george herbert walker bush david that's um you see it again in a minute it's a mock-up of the white house they've had built in this hall in great confidence that it would be the future home of george herbert walker bush we will hear a lot about him uh in the days ahead but let's start he was an unsuccessful candidate for the presidential nomination in 1980 cia director u.s unvoided china chairman of the republican national committee u.n ambassador unsuccessful candidate for senate and now president-elect rick hugh in houston there he goes uh peter he's about to start and i think i'll what a great welcome i'll let us listen thank you [Applause]

02:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=9960s)

[Applause] thank you all very very much hey jimmy that's his son over there behind him of course the peter there's something interesting going on here he's trying to get quiet supposedly but the band is still playing and it's obvious that the place isn't going to be quiet until it stops but you have to have here is a bit of supposedly thank you all very much spontaneous refusal to let the vice president speak come back but the band is still playing and it is still playing thank you all very very much thank you thank you [Applause] thank you all thank you [Applause] thank you all very much [Applause] thank you i've i have just received a

02:48:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10082s)

received a i've just received a telephone call from governor dukakis and i want you to know he was most gracious his call was personal it was genuinely friendly and it was in the great tradition of american politics we can now we can now speak the most majestic words a democracy has to offer the people have spoken and with [Applause] and with a full heart and with great hopes i thank all the people throughout america who have given us this great victory and i thank ronald reagan i thank him for turning our country around and for being my friend and for going the extra mile on the hustings was just like him he is simply one of the most decent men i have ever met [Music] i want to thank my friend my running mate dan quayle and his family [Applause] and they have shown great strength under fire campaigned incessantly and i am proud of him and proud of his

02:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10200s)

and i am proud of him and proud of his family [Music] i want to thank my great friend houston's son jim baker and our campaign [Applause] chairman lehitwater and the men and women of the campaign the national staff the rnc all of our state chairmen and chairwomen and all the organizations and the political clubs and i especially thank the young people who were always up at night putting up the signs [Applause] the people at those telephone banks and the one who canvassed door-to-door there's a large gathering of volunteers right now at the washington hilton and my folks and folks my heart is with you and many many thanks for all you've done from our nation's capital and i want to talk about my family fact is i'd be nothing without them our four sons our daughter daryl and my own barbara bush and i guess [Applause] i guess i shouldn't say she's my own anymore for soon she'll be the first lady of all the united states and i i thank god for the faith he's given me and as i grow older

02:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10320s)

and as i grow older [Applause] as i grow older i'm more aware of the spiritual element in life and i ask for god's help and i thank and i thank the men and women of texas [Applause] the people right here i recognize them started out with me in politics in 1962 and you never lost faith you never left me and you're a source of my strength and this is a moving night for all of us and you can't help but be moved when your country endorses your hopes and your candidacy and the feelings are so personal but the decision is larger than that and now we will move again for an america that is strong and resolute in the world strong and big-hearted at home and when i said when i said i want a kinder gentler nation i meant it and i mean it a campaign a campaign is a disagreement and disagreements divide but an election is a decision and decisions clear the way for harmony and peace and i mean to be a president of all the people and i want to work for the hopes and interests not only of my supporters but of the governors and of those who didn't vote at all to those who supported me i will try to be worthy of your trust and to those who did not i will try to earn it and my hand is out to you and i want to be your president too but i [Applause]

02:54:05 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10445s)

i think i know how governor dukakis feels lost a few along the way myself and it hurts but we both went into the arena and we fought long and hard the governor can take great satisfaction in the fact that his valiant family kitty and cara and andrea and john did him proud and now and now i know that we'll come together as

we always have 200 years of harmony in the oldest greatest democracy in man's time on earth and i've traveled many miles reached for many hands and it's occurred to me that what we were having the people of america and i was a conversation a back and forth a mutual dialogue and it cannot go away not now not when i need it most and so i mean to keep the conversation going to keep walking towards you talking with you and reaching for the hands and another thing i'll do my level best to reach out and work constructively with the united states congress and a final word [Applause] and a final word about what you mean to me my friends in this room every time barbara and i come to texas it's a homecoming we were young here started out here 40 years ago summer 48 worked in the oil fields and you know started a business and went into politics 40 years 40 years of work and caring and friendship and now i'm going to take that love and

02:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10560s)

and now i'm going to take that love and friendship it's all right here in this room put it in my pocket take it with me to washington dc where it's sometimes cold but always praising and where god knows there's lots of work to do so thank you god bless you and one other thing once in days that were a little darker i made a promise and now i'll keep it thank you new hampshire thanks for everything and god bless america thank you all very much thank you [Applause] thank you all mrs bush is always at his side they've lived in 17 cities and 28 homes since they got married in 1945. mrs bush has always been with a faithful good political wife she dropped out of smith college to marry and david these pictures of the bush family were really new to the nation at convention time not much had been seen of him until the convention you know this is a very very long leap for george bush until today he had never carried even one state today carried 36. he ran to the senate in texas twice lost twice did serve in congress carried a district but never a state

02:58:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10683s)

david as always you have an incredible sense of perspective we'll be right back after this word from your local station [Music] and peter jennings said david well there is what the country looks like at this hour it's a little after midnight in the east and george bush has 330 electoral votes michael dukakis has 108 which not that it's much consolation tomb at this point is more than he was projected to be getting in the final days of polling before the actual election some states as of midnight eastern standard time that is to say as of five minutes ago are still too close to call pennsylvania and illinois california and hawaii which is not on that map which is over to one side and alaska is still too close to call as of midnight have we just filled in alaska we have we filled it in for george bush and that is the status of our great board at this particular moment up in boston sam donaldson is with a man who did more than anything else to run uh mike dukakis's campaign through the primary in the caucus season and then after a hiatus back on the presidential trail john sasso sam well peter john sasso is really the architect of this campaign and uh is the governor's closest political adviser you heard the vice president now president-elect bush say he wants to be president of all the people including the democrats he commended governor dukakis for his campaign what's your reaction to what you heard i thought he was very gracious sam and uh he is going to be the president of all the american people as governor dukakis uh said here tonight and in that regard we wish him well mr sasso you ran an honorable campaign you did quite well certainly far better than some of the pre-election polls

03:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10800s)

than some of the pre-election polls suggested you came so close in other words and yet so far what went wrong well sam i think uh in the end the american people voted for continuity today uh the perceived prosperity and peace that the country is at we have a very popular president in ronald reagan the most popular in our lifetime and george bush was the heir apparent to that legacy and i think in the end that's what they voted for yes but a lot of people will say that this could have been won tactically that in fact a lot of mistakes were made by governor dukakis and his staff do you plead guilty to any of them yes i think we made some mistakes sam as the governor is which one self-admitted uh i think we could have responded earlier to the distortions of governor dukakis's record uh he's someone that has always wanted to define himself in positive terms and in terms of positive accomplishments and he started out to do that and his

record was terribly distorted and i'm not going to back away from that even as i wish vice president bush well this evening his record was distorted he's got a good record a record that we're proud of and well now let me just ask this quick question you say you didn't start to respond early enough a lot of people think that was governor dukakis's fault and he overruled people like you who wanted to hit hard early no that's uh that's not the case sam uh he made his case very strongly and in a compelling way particularly over these last three weeks uh he fought to the end right up until the moment the polls closed this evening for the things that he believes in and and stood for for 25 years in public life if he asked your advice as to whether he should seek the nomination of his party again in 1992 what would you tell him i would say that this is not the time to make that kind of a judgment uh he needs some time off he's going to take that time off and then he's going to get back this job at the state house and sounds like you don't rule it out well i i certainly wouldn't rule it out but i i haven't spoken to him about it sam he's somebody that

03:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=10920s)

sam he's somebody that is optimistic upbeat about this country he's going to get back to his job tomorrow morning in the state house and we'll see what the future holds thank you very much john sasso who is governor dukakis as a principal architect for this campaign and the closest political advisor we wish you well we wish the governor well thanks for coming up tonight and talking to us thank you gentlemen okay thanks very much sam nothing more difficult david on an election night than to have to defend a defeat or explain away a defeat to people like us who want to know why you don't admit all of your mistakes at this moment well the usual way to do that is to blame it on somebody else well it's very easy and you can see in general somebody who's not there and is not going to respond sorry you can see it in john sasso too there because they really keep going back to this distortion of the governor's record which they felt the bush campaign had done we want to make a call now in california in the senate race the incumbent pete wilson according to our projection the republican has staved off a very expensive attack from leo mccarthy the democrat the lieutenant governor and that is i think by all accounts the most expensive campaign in the nation in a state where you have to campaign almost exclusively on television that's where all the money goes in california it goes into television we project that pete wilson the republican incumbent is going to hold his seat in the senate and we'll be back in one minute [Music] abc news election night coverage of the 88 vote will continue in a moment we were talking just a moment ago about the senate race in california the incumbent pete wilson has uh has retained his seat and it remind me of some of the figures we made about money a record 130 million dollars about nine dollars a voter has been spent on advertising in california on the presidential race the senate race and the congressional and the ballot proposition the most expensive senate race was as we

03:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11040s)

the most expensive senate race was as we said pete wilson's 15 million dollars spent on that race now in washington there you see i confess to our surprise uh senator dan quayle vice president-elect dan quayle whose staff and that's his wife marilyn uh whose campaign had been telling us all evening that he was not going to show up that this was george bush's night and he's being greeted there by frank farrenkov that by the way is bush leaving houston just as quail arrives at the republican national committee meeting place in washington these two only ran into each other a couple of times on the campaign trail uh over the last few months and as david brinkley was pointing out at the beginning senator quail campaigned well away from the major centers of the country thank you very much and [Applause] the only thing i can say is that you did it we did it and george bush did [Applause] it thank you very much you have truly made this the most memorable night in our lives and believe me marilyn tucker benjamin and karen and i we will never forget this night we won't forget we won't forget what you did for me and what you have done for george bush [Applause] for nearly for nearly three months since our convention in august

03:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11161s)

our convention in august we have witnessed firsthand the dedication and professionalism of literally thousands of supporters volunteers and staff members everywhere [Applause] [Music] through 38 states and for more than 235 separate appearances so tonight a salute to all who we never had a chance to meet or to say hello marilyn and i thank you so much for all you have done [Applause] and let me say a special thanks to a great wife a great mother and a great campaigner marilyn quayle [Applause] a special a special thanks to my senate staff my campaign staff and to all those back at headquarters who committed all their energies and devotion to the cause of this campaign [Music] [Applause] and before i say anything else i think we in washington ought to let them hear us in houston texas senator dan quill sending a message down to houston some uh mentioning thanks to his wife by the way there's some talk not all of it serious in fact not serious at all uh that his wife might be one of the people that considered to be appointed

03:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11281s)

people that considered to be appointed to his senate seat which will now be vacated and the present governor governor or the republican will make the appointment so the republicans will get uh that senate seat there and we will not have to be filled until i think a special election about 1992 am right something like that but bush was careful to pick a candidate for vice president from a state where he would be replaced by a republican if he weren't so that was one clever assumption i think mr bush was that clever well that doesn't don't have to be terribly clever to know that a republican governor in indiana will reporter appoint a republican senator dan quayle at 41 becomes the third youngest uh vice president elect in the nation's history okay you happy with that i want to go back very quickly to george will because george as sam donaldson was talking to john sasso about coming so close i heard you groan in the background well i they didn't come close that that's all i mean i look at the map and it's a very colorful red almost all over the place it is however the case that democrats do have some some ways of taking consolation from the night george bush did not have coattails peter the two states where i think people were looking for his coattails to show up if they were to exist we're in the senate races in florida with connie mack and the senate race in new jersey with pete dawkins and both of those people lost although bush carried the states fairly easily on the other hand what really must worry democrats tonight is this we have not only a two-party system increasingly we seem to have a two-tier system that is we have a presidential system and the republicans dominate it we have a legislative system and the democrats dominate it but i do not think the democrats want to become thought of as a merely legislative party jeff greenfield we've only got a couple of minutes before this next commercial but you heard george bush talk about a gentler and kinder america how long do you think it'll be before the nation begins to mend

03:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11400s)

before the nation begins to mend well no i think the mending process is going to happen fairly soon because we don't have ideological parties in the sense they conduct permanent warfare i think the question is that unlike ronald reagan in 1980 george bush does not come to washington in in my view with a coherent political ideological mandate and you have had a congress that has been increasingly assertive of its power against both democratic and republican presidents the only exception being in the early part of reagan's first term when reagan came in and said i want on this ground now let me have my tax cuts and defense build up and the congress as reagan likes to say if they didn't see the light they felt the heat i don't think george bush comes to washington with anything like that kind of weaponry this was an election about continuity this was an election where we heard bush supporters chanting four more years a rather ironic cheer for a man that's not an incumbent and i think the gains that the democrats have made in congress uh are going to make it very hard for bush to come in and say read my lips enact my program okay jeff i'm going to hold your feet to the fire a little bit when we come back though because there are people in the country who think that george bush won not in the landslide but if someone said in a mudslide before we go away one of those has been too close to call pennsylvania we now project for george bush which means in shorthand that michael dukakis did not win enough in philadelphia and in pittsburgh particularly to offset the republican gains out in rural pennsylvania but you can see how close it was and why it has taken us this long to call it waiting for 91 of the vote to be counted and returned we are going to cut away now so that you can have a chance to take

a closer look at the local races in in your neighborhood and the propositions on your ballot but we will be back and we hope you will join me david brinkley jeff greenfield and everybody here as our election coverage continues [Music]

03:12:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11527s)

[Music] from abc news this is continuing coverage of the 88 vote with sam donaldson at the dukakis headquarters in boston britt hume at the busch headquarters in houston james wooten and barry sarafin on capitol hill lynn scherr and jeff greenfield in new york and now reporting from the abc news election night command center peter jennings and david brinkley [Music] just before we go any further david you have a another projection i do indeed governor montana a republican elected there not and it's not they don't do that much governor stan stevens a republican candidate for governor in montana elected as of 12 30 illinois california hawaii my including hawaii no hawaii's been ps and hawaii are still too close to coal it really may be in part in hawaii because the results have not come in but in illinois and california it is still too close to coal but as of now if you take a look at our big board george bush has 355 electoral votes he has made his acceptance speech um michael dukakis has made his concession speech is quite a lot to talk about in the next half hour our last half hour but we want to get caught up in some of the other races in the country let's begin with the senate and go to washington and abc's tim wooten who is there jim well peter there are a few people who are who have familiar faces who won't be around among them uh john stennis who's retiring lawton childs who's retiring and several others but let's take a look at how the how the senate is going to change in terms of party switches in states the republicans have picked up states in mississippi and montana the democrats have picked up states in connecticut virginia and nebraska that's a total gain of for the republicans of two for the democrats of three which gives the democrats a net gain of one that gives him a 55-45 majority in

03:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11642s)

one that gives him a 55-45 majority in the senate it's likely to stay that way because we've called 30 of the 33 races the three remaining races that's hacked in uh in nevada wilson in california and up in washington slade gordon all republicans all leading and looking like they may pull it off i must confess jim in in california we've actually projected pete wilson the republican to hold his seat haven't we we haven't projected in washington state yet i was thinking of wallop in wyoming sorry okie dokie and chick hector nevada who's having a real struggle actually we will project wallop now um do you want to give us the details on that one jim well malcolm wallop was expected to win all along uh that race has not been in much question and it doesn't really change anything it doesn't change the kind of senate that president-elect bush will face when he gets here in january not much different than the senate that uh president reagan has faced for the last few years assertive uh independent generally middle of the road okay the only one you didn't mention which from my own personal point of view a highly visible person in the senate william proxmire of wisconsin he's retiring said he didn't want to be accused of staying around too long but he the famous william proxmire of the golden fleece award once a month in which he highlighted that institution or a department in government which he thought was wasting the taxpayers money and david i'm told he may continue that golden fleece award when he is out of government from his home in wisconsin you may well well i don't know i was wondering if somebody would carry it on and always made a nice little story about once a month you were you were following some figures in the house i know before we go to various areas well i have a number here that i know everyone has been waiting for absolutely what percentage of members of the house running for re-election one tell us 99 well don't no need talking to paris sarah if it isn't really nothing left to say is it well barry let's put you on the stick in washington who in the one percent didn't make it

03:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11760s)

percent didn't make it well peter that's an important question and we ought to do a little catching up in that regard as you have made plain the cast isn't going to change much the major players will be back jim wright and bob michael and people like that but a couple of incumbents got tripped up tonight by controversy let's

go to that race we talked about earlier which is the georgia fourth district that's where republican congressman pat swindle has lost swindle as we noted earlier is under indictment for perjury for lying to a grand jury this has been a very nasty race ben jones the democrat who has won that race you may remember is an actor he played a character named cooter on the tv series dukes of hazzard swindle despite all the controversy he was getting i guess wasn't going to take all the heat himself he tried to label jones in this race as dishonest an alcoholic a wife beater and and jones in cooter-like fashion replied that being called dishonest by swindles like being called ugly by a possum anyway jones is the winner down there sounds like your favorite race of the evening barry well i like that one a lot now there's another race that we really need to take note of tonight and that's in rhode island's first district here is where a democratic incumbent fernand saint-germain he's been around in congress a very long time he was seeking his 15th term he's chairman of the house banking committee and he has lost saint germain has been shadowed by ethics questions those relate to meals and entertainment that that he accepted by from members of the savings and loan industry and he's now out he's the first chairman of a standing committee to lose in the house since 1980. okay right just one another about right out and senator chaffee up in rhode island held his seat he'd been challenged very hard by the lieutenant governor richard light or licht i'm not sure exactly i apologize how to pronounce it um licht but he uh held his seat there uh despite some very determined opposition that he should leave the washington scene uh in a minute

03:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=11880s)

the washington scene uh in a minute we're going to get a real chance to talk to lynn scherr who's been sort of our dean of numerology around here she's going to tell us how people voted how the young voted how blacks voted how women voted on what issues they voted but we'll be right back well with 67 percent of the precincts reporting in that george bush is getting about 54 percent of the vote michael dukakis is getting about 46 percent of the vote but who is voting for whom we judge this uh not only by the raw numbers of course but by the exit polls and lynn sure watches over them for us then start by telling us how much you've learned which i suspect is a lot we've learned quite a lot peter with hardly any time to get it all on the air i'm afraid but let me start by telling you a little bit about issues um we took a look at some of those rather untraditional issues that the candidates were stressing and we decided to see how they were playing did voters care about them well on these key issues let's start with the pledge of allegiance only 12 percent said they thought it was important prison furloughs remember the ad another 12 incidentally on both of those the majority went for bush on dan quayle 12 only 12 percent said dan quayle was important and by the way most of them voted for dukakis but the point there is dan quayle simply did not hurt george bush now we can take a look at the key issues that were important according to our polling 32 percent said abortion was important this is really quite a change from 1984 is twice as many people as then and by the way most of them voted for bush 26 said the death penalty was important they also went for bush drugs was um 20 another 26 said drugs were important and that was a tied uh overall the number one concern was the national economy the number two concern was the national defense bush did very comfortably and won in both of these things but in the end the real point is no issue dominated in fact the only thing that stands out in this election in terms of why people voted for someone is they said voters cited george bush's

03:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12000s)

is they said voters cited george bush's experience as the reason why they voted for him peter now lynn you've been uh you've been waiting up to your neck in figures numbers not only this year but in past election years what uh what came out this time that surprised you in all those figures well there have been some changes david and peter um what ronald reagan did in 1984 based on what he had done in 1980 was to essentially turn this country around the coalition of democrats that used to be strictly democratic blue collar ethnic catholics um they all switched over to a lot of them switched over to the reagan camp we are beginning to see a little bit of movement back to the democrats dukakis seems to have brought the catholics home um there has also been a change in terms of uh the way some of the age groups voted how'd the young vote well the young people uh 18 to 24 split their vote this year that is a loss for the democrats because in 1984 uh mondial got 59 and reagan got 40. so in that regard the democrats did not do so well let

me come back to issues with you for a second okay i want to cite my own unscientific trip around the country where i found the deficit to be number one and the homeless number two i haven't heard it mentioned or the poor in your assessment uh the deficit and um and the homeless which we do as a question um uh taking care of the poor did not do particularly well the only people that cited those um the people who cited those and the numbers were i think around 14 or something like that most of them voted for dukakis on both of those issues so they cut for dukakis but not nearly enough in order to make a difference in this election okay lynn thanks very much indeed appreciate that by the way speaking of what cuts were the caucus and what doesn't we're going to go away for another minute and when we come back we're going to talk to our political director hal bruno who watches this thing like a hawk he's our dean and he will tell us i think just how close it was in many of those states and how it might have gone in his view if dukakis had worked harder we'll be right back

03:22:08 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12128s)

well i guess we would have to call this david the last straw award marianne keeley who's covered jesse jackson for us from the very beginning says that jesse jackson tonight called george bush to congratulate her did not call michael dukakis really really so we're told by our reporter who's been with uh jesse jackson relentlessly from day one well if she said it i believe it was very odd how do i very hard all right let's turn to hal bruno our political director it is hal to whom we respond day in and day out and who knows every political operative in the country and if i hear you correctly sitting down there behind me you think that the caucus could have pulled this out if you'd only done some things and listen to some other people i think a lot of the democratic party feel that way and i think tomorrow you're going to see the recriminations happening because they're going to look at a lot of these states like pennsylvania where it was within fractions illinois which is still can't be called as close states like michigan and new jersey maryland a state that was inexcusable for a democrat to lose what they're going to say what they've said tonight is that if dukakis had not wasted august and september if he had immediately responded to bush not allowed him to get the momentum if he had not wasted his time chasing votes in southern states that there was no hope of winning if all of these things had been done early on if their phone calls had been returned it could have been a win for the democrats can you give us some specific examples of states where they begged him to come because i know there are some and he didn't show up well pennsylvania is a good example where uh at labor day can we put up the pennsylvania board while you're talking about this go ahead household well you may recall in the latter part of august dukakis was in massachusetts and he was touring massachusetts and he wanted to work that week as governor and there were pleas from ohio from pennsylvania from illinois from michigan all of these big battleground states why are you there why are you not out here in the meantime george bush came

03:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12241s)

here in the meantime george bush came out of his convention with a full head of steam he didn't wait for labor day for the campaign to start he went from his convention to the campaign trail and he never stopped but there's a certain irony here here is the governor of a state who said he will campaign for the presidency and still continue to maintain his responsible position in the state and he and he gets knocked because he did that well it was unrealistic to think that you can maintain your position as governor and be active as a governor in a state and campaign for president at the same time george bush george bush had a job of which nothing is required that's right but dukakis realistically had to say to the people in massachusetts look for the next couple months i can't be a full-time governor i've got to be a full-time candidate so i'm in a phrase what do you think we're going to be hearing from democrats over the next weeks and months well you're going to hear a lot of bitterness toward dukakis then you're going to have a fight within the party with the southerners saying see we told you so with the others saying well look we gave you a vice presidential candidate from the south the whole convention was geared to the south the dukakis message until the last two weeks of the campaign was geared to the south and what did it get us not one single state so in addition to wanting to get there have their word with michael dukakis the democrats are also once again going to be going at each other hal thank you and also while i have you here thank you for all the stuff that only we know

you did this year hal bruno our political director to whom we're always indebted a final word from boston from sam donaldson sam you've been listening to uh to our leader here what do you think well peter i want to sort of second what hal has just said because i'd like to defend myself against george wills my good friends groan earlier when i said the john sasso dukakis's architect of his campaign that's so near and yet so far if you take some of those states we're going to find that bush won them very narrowly rather than by a big blowout and i agree i think this campaign probably could have been won tactically not only would have taken an earlier effort by dukakis a finer message sharpened and honed an

03:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12361s)

a finer message sharpened and honed an attack message to respond to bush's negative ads on dukakis but it would have taken more cooperation earlier from jesse jackson amanda we've talked about some tonight a man who says perhaps he'll get into tomorrow if not for himself at least for the cause jackson could have started earlier but instead he played a little bit of divisiveness there and that hurt dukakis i want to tell you one thing finally if i may anyone who suggests that bush's victory and i don't know that anyone has done that tonight but you sort of hear it in the background is another victory to show that conservatism in this country is on the march ought to take a look at what happened between 1984 and 1988 ronald reagan won 49 states now if that was a conservative victory and was on the march what happened to george bush well i think peter quite clearly reagan is a phenomenon now it's not altogether a personal victory for him he represented great ideological uh properties and people responded to that but there's no one like ronald reagan george bush suddenly isn't like him michael dukakis doesn't like him but i think this election would in a one sense if you have to lose it give some heart to the democrats they're not washed up as a political party and i think if there is a recession as a lot of people predict president bush in 1992 may have his hands full to be reelected sam i want to ask you one question about the campaign when did the dukakis people realize that this was not a campaign about competence but one about ideology well i think some of them realized it earlier than others and i think one of those who was the last to realize it unfortunately for the campaign was michael s dukakis i think the stories are true i've heard him from just a number of people and i think that they're correct that early on when people like sasso wanted to hit back on those negative ads dukakis still wanted to take the high ground now we've heard from mario cuomo the very distinguished governor of new york who's admitted publicly that he was one of those who advised dukakis you don't have to worry about this cuomo said the american people will never buy this well enough of the american people bought it so that the negatives were in concrete before dukakis came down off the high

03:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12481s)

before dukakis came down off the high ground and said well i've got to scrap it up it was only late september that you began to sense some scrappiness in the dukakis camp thanks sam very much indeed appreciate it let's go back down to houston now and talk to britain brit chart the future for us at least in the short run you said earlier that you thought george bush would take the high ground he sounded like it in his acceptance speech he's not going to think he has a mandate surely is he well he certainly isn't going to think he has any coattails based on the results that we've seen in the senate races and the congressional races tonight there's been nothing to suggest that he'll have a news conference tomorrow and i suspect that the kind of tone that he struck here tonight will continue i'd like to if i might peter enter a mild word of dissent to the wisdom that has been articulated by my colleague sam and hal i think that we who cover politics and those who we talk to all the time who work in it like to believe that what we cover and those who work in it like to believe that what they do really make a huge difference i suspect that when the history of all this time is written that larger forces will be seen as having had a greater effect on this than this tactical decision or that trip made or not made and i look at the situation that george bush inherited indeed it was even more auspicious for an incumbent party than was the situation ronald reagan had in 1984 the economy really is in better shape in terms of unemployment than it was then the situation in the world could not have broken better for george bush if he'd prayed for it and had his prayers answered and look what happened just last week on thursday or friday morning the unemployment figures came out and we were at a 14-year low i mean that's the kind of luck that a candidate prays for so i think there was a lot of good uh backdrop in terms of the conditions of the

country that helped george bush but there was one critical mistake i think his opposition made and it echoed through that atlanta convention they thought george bush was a man who couldn't hit the floor with his hat and he turned out to be a more aggressive a more fiery and at critical moments even a more eloquent campaigner than they ever imagined and i'm not sure they ever quite recovered from that but who would have ever guessed it brit well i covered him in

03:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12601s)

guessed it brit well i covered him in 1980 and i myself must say to you peter that this man is a very different fellow than he was then he is more conservative and i think genuinely so i think his convictions have changed and he's tougher than he was then he was urged repeatedly in 1980 by his uh by his advisors to go on the attack against ronald reagan he wouldn't do it now as things turned out i suppose we could say tonight it was the wise thing to do but when he was urged in 1980 to go after bob dole he did it and it worked and it was the kind of thing that i don't think he could possibly have done eight years ago he's a different guy sorry i didn't mean to thanks very much but you mentioned news conferences tomorrow they're going to be a couple of news conferences somebody will tell me in my ear george bush at 10 o'clock tomorrow eastern time george bush is going to give a news conference and then michael dukakis is going to give a news conference well at approximately two o'clock eastern standard time and we will carry them both live and then tomorrow night nightline is going to become viewpoint where ted koppel and a panel of critics will sit down and discuss this election covering politics who's to blame is the title that'll be 11 30 or in the regular uh nightline slot wherever you get it around the country i want to turn finally here to jeff greenfield tonight to ask you jeff if you thought there were some particular shaping events for george bush this year which we should not forget i i want to think of two in the general in the election campaign first the acceptance speech one of the great acceptance speeches in the last two decades in which george bush took all of his weaknesses and explained them away i'm not a wimp i was loyal to the president now you must see me as i am michael dukakis wouldn't define himself in ideology i'll define him and i'll define myself it was a absolute shaping moment that gave him definition the second one i would mention because the first one was scripted by a speechwriter was the second debate when george bush clearly bested michael dukakis and put a lot of doubts to rest he took the premises that brit hume talked about peace and prosperity a desire for continuity and gave the public gave the voters a

03:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdpEDvt0ey8&t=12720s)

and gave the public gave the voters a reason to say it's okay you can stay with me i'm confident and i care for you those were the two events that i think were the most successful for george bush peter david jeff thanks very much indeed just somebody we haven't mentioned much tonight ronald reagan uh he and mrs reagan watched the returns uh quietly tonight so we are told from california where he ended the campaign stumping for george bush we can now call hawaii for mr dukakis those four electoral base normally a democratic state and let's just take one quick look at the illinois board because illinois has been troubling us all evening it's still just about 50 50 there with 66 percent of the vote counted that great bellwether state at the heart of the midwest remains exactly where it is david a final comment well the reagans are saying that they look forward to the privacy of returning to california uh they all say that when they leave even though they have spent half their lives and millions of dollars trying to escape the privacy all right good as always i want to thank you it is an enormous privilege to sit beside you all year especially late in the evening when i get to embarrass you by saying that thank you thank you you're wonderful david um what to say in conclusion no no thanks rudy to most of people uh perhaps we'll all think in the days ahead to keep george bush's feet to the fire on whether it will be a kinder in gentler america and we'll look back at these exit polls and remind the new president when his time comes that the american people still think there's a mountain of debt out there with which he has to deal and of course the press corps if it gives him a honeymoon at all we'll soon want to know whether or not we should still read his lips in the bush administration or whether there are taxes in our future at any rate george bush the vice president becomes the president-elect in this november of 1988 to all of the people at abc news thank you very much and to all of you thank you for joining us on behalf of all my colleagues good night i'm peter jennings

END